

ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-THIRD ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT OF THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

2018



Published by

THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY
THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY
ADYAR, CHENNAI 600 020, INDIA

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THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY
ANNUAL OF THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY
FOR THE YEAR 1908

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Presidential Address

To the 143rd Annual Convention of the Theosophical Society (TS)

Adyar, 31 December 2018

I AM very happy to warmly welcome all of you to this 143rd International Convention at our Adyar international headquarters, and I wish you a very pleasant and inspiring time while you are here. Let us rise to invoke the blessing of our elder Brethren, who are ever ready to guide and help those who are unselfishly dedicated to the good of other living beings:

**May those who are the embodiments of Love Immortal
bless with their help and guidance this Society,
founded to be a channel for their work.**

**May They inspire it with their Wisdom, strengthen it
with their Power, and energize it with their activity.**

I am now pleased to open this 143rd Annual Convention of the TS.

Since the original founding of the Theosophical Society (TS) 143 years ago this movement has spread to more than 70 countries in the world. More importantly, it has affected thought and values globally. The core ideas of Unity, multi-dimensionality, omnipresent intelligence, self-responsibility, and spiritual evolution have become part of the fabric of global thought in ways both subtle and obvious. Although much of current affairs would suggest a heightened sense of separateness and denial of the fact of Oneness, the principles have become firmly rooted in human consciousness and will necessarily unfold. Our role as members of the TS in this unfoldment is to determine whether they are realized

gracefully, or accompanied by the turbulence that much of current behavior would indicate.

As an organization, the TS came into being to serve humanity in the deepest possible manner. Many organizations in the world are here to help in a variety of ways — to provide food, medical care, shelter, religious optimism, financial aid. While every level of compassionate response is needed, ultimately none of the causes of suffering can be addressed on their own level. Food, money, shelter, and so on, do not affect the root cause of social, and even physical imbalance. Although the TS's work has been described as a "forlorn hope", it is the *only* hope. Until as a human family we loosen

the inherited conviction of our separateness, we will continue the cycle of aggression, competition, and dissatisfaction that is currently engulfing us.

Throughout the TS's history we have been blessed with insightful members and dynamic leaders. As if speaking with one voice they have continually emphasized the requirement that we assume responsibility for our own unfoldment. In the absence of some grounding in the experience of Oneness, we have little to give. While this self-unfoldment is a must, the deeper direction is toward a nucleus of awakened individuals capable of expressing unity in action. It is only "through the soothing influence of brotherhood" as contemplated by the TS's inner founders that the instinctual expression of human nature can be prevented from ever increasing levels of harm. In a practical sense this means that we as members of the TS have to continue to learn how to work together, regardless of personal likes and dislikes.

When the TS was founded one had to be a visionary to have a genuine sense of global interconnection. Today the fact of interconnection is continually, often painfully, present. Anyone with a mobile phone is in touch from moment to moment with currents in the world. The relative ease of communication and travel has made aspects of our work more possible. Whereas in the recent past our

groups and Sections had to work in relative isolation, today new levels of cooperation are possible. At the international level, for the last three years, we have been meeting to develop a working nucleus to plan and implement a spectrum of projects.

The work we are attempting is global, but requires the focused efforts of local members and groups. Outwardly, circumstances and conditions are continually changing, but the collective tendencies of humanity move much more slowly. In this time of ever-increasing urban concentration, where the stabilizing influence of Nature's rhythms is becoming less available to most, we are faced with a challenge. How do we create islands of peace and stability in the midst of the swirling, irregular currents of modern life? How do we expose those who are searching, perhaps without even knowing it, to these alternative possibilities?

There is no set answer to these questions, but there are examples. In India for 136 years the center at Adyar has been a source of spiritual focus and quiet; in the United States the Olcott National Headquarters has been a similar example; in Finland, Australia, Italy, New Zealand, Cuba, Israel, Brazil, and numerous other places around the world their centers have demonstrated the magnetic quality of cooperative effort toward deepening awareness.

* * *

The highlight of this year was the **11th World Congress** of the Theosophical Society (TS) held in **Singapore** from 4 to 8 August, with the theme “Consciousness, Contemplation, Commitment: The Future Is Now”. This historic event was organized for the first time in Asia with 173 delegates from 24 countries. It was held in the Conference Hall of Ramada Singapore at Zhongshan Park. I gave the opening address and Marcos de Resende gave the keynote speech on the theme. That evening I gave a lecture on “A Theosophy for Tomorrow”, and also gave a lecture on “The Intuitive Mind” in a public auditorium on 5 August, with more than 300 attending. Other Congress lectures and workshops were given by several General Secretaries, officers of the TS worldwide, and the President of Singapore Lodge, Mr Chong Sanne, who led a team of members from the Lodge who worked hard and efficiently to organize this Congress. The 4th Theosophical Order of Service (TOS) International Conference was also organized in Singapore following the World Congress from 9 to 10 August, with 67 members from 18 countries attending. Nancy Secrest, TOS International Secretary, chaired the session and I gave the opening speech.

Continuing with the **Indo-Pacific** region, I inaugurated the 126th **Indian Section** Convention at the Adyar Theatre on 1 January, chaired by the international Vice-President, Dr Deepa Padhi. The “State of the Indian Section Address” followed, along with a slide presentation by the General Secretary,

Mr Pradeep Gohil. The Indian Section Council elected Mr V. Narayanan, uncontested, as Treasurer for 2018-2019. There was a decrease of 250 members in the Indian Section as of 30 September.

I attended the North India Study Camp held from 6 to 8 October at the Indian Section Headquarters in Varanasi on “The Process of Unfoldment: An Education of the Soul” and gave a public lecture on “The Importance of the Centre” held in the evening of the first day. I spoke to the TOS group members in the Workers’ Training Programme on 9 October. The 95th South India Theosophical Conference was organized in Adyar from 30 March to 1 April on “Illumination Must Come from Within”. From six Federations 118 delegates attended the Conference, which started with the welcome address by the international Secretary Ms Marja Artamaa. A study camp was organized at the Himalayan Study Centre, Bhowali, from April 13 to 19 by the Indian Section on the topic “Glimpses into *The Secret Doctrine*”, which was directed by Mr U. S. Pandey. A National Youth Study Camp was also held in Bhowali from 25 to 27 May by the Indian Section with 44 participants from various parts of India, which was directed by Mr Shikhar Agnihotri and Ms Varsha Patel.

A TOS camp was organized in the Bhowali Centre from 29 to 31 May on the theme “Working Towards the Future” with 36 active members of TOS from different Indian regions, including Mrs Deepa Padhi, international Vice-President,

Nancy Secrest, TOS international Secretary, and Marja Artamaa, international Secretary.

I addressed the **New Zealand** Convention held this year in Palmerston North in late January. The focus was on "Seeing through the Illusion: A Journey of the Heart". Other guest speakers included Ms Dorothy Bell from Australia and Mrs Lily Boyd. Two schools of Theosophy were held this year, one in October on "The Spiritual Path in Daily Life: Exploring the Mahatma Letters", with Mr John Vostermans as the course facilitator. The second one was held in April with international speaker Mrs Elena Dovalsantos as course director exploring the theme "Our Origins and Destiny", based on *The Secret Doctrine*. The Immersion Weekends were inspiring, with a focus on a deeper awareness of "Theosophy — Practical Spirituality". They celebrated the opening of a new building for the Hawkers Bay Branch in April with seminars which were attended by members from all around the world.

The **Australian Section** has reported another highly active year of events and performances, including a successful Annual Convention held in Brisbane with long-time member and featured speaker Professor Emeritus Richard Silberstein; a survey of all TS Lodges/Branches to obtain information on their training requirements and their suggestions for the planned introductory training video; and starting of an annual TS prize at the University of Western Australia. The presentations made by the National Lecturers and the National President, and the

Educational Coordinator were well received. A short list of top-priority and high-priority items have been prepared in a business plan workshop, which is a commendable initiative.

Mr B. L. Bhattacharya, the Presidential Representative of **Bangladesh**, delivered a lecture in Dhaka University on "The Works of Vidyasagar and Theosophy". Two meetings were organized by Mr Prahlad Debnath, in Maynamaty and another at Comilla, with Mr Bhattacharya as the guest speaker. A dedicated senior member, Mr Subodh Chandra, was felicitated, and copies of the book in Bengali *Gignasha* written by Mr Bhattacharya were distributed among the members. The TS in **Sri Lanka** had a useful and interesting year of theosophical study and meditation classes, generating motivation and enthusiasm among the members.

The TS in **East and South East Asia** comprises Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, and Myanmar. The **Singapore** Lodge formed in 1889 is the largest in this Presidential Agency, with 340 members and Mr Chong Sanne is the President. The Chinese Project Team that develops the Chinese website and carries out the translation of theosophical literature for Chinese-speaking people, is based in the Singapore Lodge. I visited the Lodge on 21 October and gave a talk on "The Importance of the Centre". The Selangor Lodge, formed in 1929, is currently the sole Lodge in **Malaysia** and the President is Ng Ay Na. There is an increase in the membership from 89 to 95. **Japan** has only one Lodge at present, called Nippon, in Tokyo, with

38 members. It was formed in 1972. The current President is Naoto Okamoto. The TS in **Myanmar** has one Lodge, the Olcott Lodge in Yangon, with 34 members. The current President is Pyi Thane.

The General Secretary of the **Philippines Section (TSP)**, Dr Rosel Doval Santos, reports that for the last two years, there has been a high proportion of serious theosophical workers and inquirers below age 35. In most meetings, young members outnumber the older ones. Of the 2,000 new inquirers, over 50% are young. They have also increased the usage of social media. Being an archipelago, the internet (particularly Facebook) has proven to be a valuable tool, with virtual chat groups, including a vibrant youth forum, "Theosofriends". They also elected a youth representative to their TSP Board. They intend to explore giving a scholarship to the School of the Wisdom for their youth representatives or leaders to deepen their understanding of Theosophy. The Hao Chin family donated a large parcel of land in Metropolitan Manila to develop a theosophical retreat center. A young architect and their youth group are leading this project to have a future home of Theosophy in Manila (a wide parcel of empty land full of trees and vegetation in the middle of the city) much like a small Adyar.

The **Qatar** TS Lodge, which is directly attached to TS Headquarters in Adyar, celebrated the Foundation and White Lotus Days. They are continuing with their regular study classes on *Theosophy Explained* by P. Pavri.

I am happy to report that thanks to the 3-year efforts of the **English Section** members and its National President, Mrs Jenny Baker, the Unincorporated Association has officially become a Charity. They are continuing with their programmes of holding public talks and members' studies. Two other important events during the year were the North-Western Federation Conference in June on the theme "The Quest for the Holy Grail" and a Summer School in August on "The Pillars of Wisdom". It is encouraging to note that the English Section has continued with their online Diploma in Theosophy course for members worldwide. During the year, 108 students have taken the course.

The 13th **All-Ireland** Convention held in Dublin in June witnessed a historic event when the Northern and Southern Lodges joined forces as a Regional Association. The Guest Speaker, Diana Dunningham Chapotin, spoke on "Theosophy in Action: Transform Ourselves, Transform the Planet" was inspiring and well received. It is also good that the membership has been increasing. The Organizing Secretary keeps in touch with each member with a newsletter and study notes every 2 to 3 months. An appreciable donation was collected by the TS to support TOS work on education.

Austria stands steady at 58 members. Some of them attended the annual session of the European School of Theosophy held at Salzburg in Austria. The annual meeting of the Austrian Association was held in March, where Albert

Schichl was re-elected as the Organizing Secretary and Dr Helmuth Ecker as his Deputy and Speaker for the Association.

Lotus Lodge in Zagreb, **Croatia**, has 20 members and meetings are held twice a month. This year they introduced a new activity in their meetings by discussing one virtue in every meeting. While a couple of members are devoted to the translation of articles and books, some others are dedicated to working on the website.

The TS in **Finland** has 22 Lodges of which two are in Estonia. The Section has lectures each Sunday in Helsinki and monthly around the country. It organized the mid-summer Festival and a Self-transformation seminar at Kreivila, the Summer-Estate. The Lodges in Estonia organized a successful Summer School in June. Three seminars were arranged with Finnish sister organizations in Helsinki, Kreivila, and Kalevala on "Keys to Happiness and Self-Knowledge". Their TOS continued supporting the Olcott Memorial High School, Social Welfare Centre, and the Boys' Hostel in Adyar.

The **French** Section achieved their targets by making operational a new website, adapting activities based on past participation, and publishing new books for the public. Their other activities included regular meditation courses. Special events like "Celebration of Lights" were organized, and there was a special sale of various objects, the proceeds of which were earmarked for Adyar renovation works.

"Open-Door Day" for the public for the propagation of Theosophy was very successful. Lodges were also active in the provinces. In Marseille, on the eve of the Executive Meeting of the EFT held on 31 March, a workshop was conducted on "The Role of the Human Being in the Universe", which was well attended.

The TS in **Greece**, with headquarters in Athens, has been active with regular meetings of the study groups and Lodges. Their magazine, *Ilisos*, has also been published every three months, a dependable source of information and study materials.

The **German** Section had an active year. The traditional Summer School in July was held near Kassel on the topic "To Develop Our Latent Power". Attendance from the Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland, Austria, and USA made the meeting an international one. A new Lodge, Brahmapura, was founded in Halstenbek, near Hamburg. Membership increased from 126 to 128. Two healing groups met twice a month as part of TOS activities.

The TS in **Hungary** has three Lodges, one in the country and two in Budapest. In November a young couple, members of Siddharth Lodge, organized a new lecture series on healing which they learned about in Nepal. Translation of important theosophical texts has been continued as well as regular activities. They have an active TOS group.

The **Italian** Section, with 25 groups and 19 centers, continued their "members only" meetings and public conferences, which were very well received. The 104th Italian TS (ITS) National Congress was

held in Cattolica from 31 May to 3 June, on “From Knowledge to Service: The Challenges of the TS”. The ITS YouTube channel is remarkable for its interesting videos and lectures. Their website is visited by around 4,000 viewers every month. The Italian TOS has extended its cooperation to Syria, Turkey, India, Pakistan, Burma, and the Philippines.

There are two Lodges in **Marseille**, France, directly attached to Adyar: (1) Arc en Ciel Lodge organized a lecture by Jean Iozia on “Adyar and the Founders” on 17 November. The Lodge meets monthly and discusses important theosophical publications like *Man and his Bodies* by Annie Besant. (2) Ananda Lodge of the Theosophical Centre for Studies and Research. They have been rendering an active platform for members to have discussions and meetings. The Ananda Lodge re-elected Mrs Brigitte Iozia as their President in January.

The members of the TS in **Portugal** were quite happy in their new premises and activities conducted on the basis of an annual calendar available via their website. They have a public meeting every fortnight, which is always well attended. The Hermes study group was formed in Lisbon.

The TS in **Russia** has 8 branches and one research centre with 125 members. Study meetings are held in almost every branch weekly or once in two weeks. The International Theosophical Congress dedicated to the 142nd Anniversary of the TS took place in St Petersburg from 17 to 19 November. The focus was on

“Scientific Value, Relevance, and Importance of *The Secret Doctrine*”. It was attended by 50 participants. The annual 7th All-Russian Theosophical Conference was held in Kemerovo on 25 March with more than 50 participants. The annual Winter and Summer Theosophical Readings were held in Makaryevka, Altai Region, on the study of *The Secret Doctrine*.

The TS in **Slovenia**, with four Lodges, continues with their weekly meetings on different days. They had their Winter School in February and Summer School in June. The motto of this study year was “Love”.

In December, the 11th edition of the Silent Retreat was held in the **Spanish** Section, conducted by the President of the European Federation of the TS, Ms Trần-Thi-Kim-Diêu. Another retreat took place in Montserrat on the theme “The Spiritual Instructions According to the *Bhagavad-gītā*”, with 50 participants. They had the 40th edition of the Iberian Days function, organized jointly by the Portuguese and Spanish Sections. “Living with Intelligence” was the topic. They had a seminar in May on “Symbolism”, and in August they had their Summer School with a focus on Pablo Sender’s talks on the “Yogasutras of Patañjali” via the Internet.

The TS in **Sweden** has five Lodges with 147 members. They have their regular activities, including lectures, study groups, and workshops on various theosophical themes. They had arranged two mini-schools at the headquarters in Stockholm with around 20 participants in each. The one in autumn was on “Self-

Transformation According to Vic Hao Chin", with Ms Mirva Jaatinen, and the other in the spring on "Theosophy in the Beginning, Now, and in the Future", with Ing-Britt Wiklund, Pertti Spets, Birgitta Skarbo, and Monica Ostetius. Summer school was held on "The Path of Life", with 23 participants. The TOS in Sweden is supporting children at an orphanage in Goa, India.

In an Extraordinary Assembly on 14 November, the **Swiss** TS held the election of their new Presidential Agent, Mr Andrea Biasca-Caroni. The Swiss and European Theosophical Seminar was held from 23 to 24 March in Ascona by the Swiss TS in collaboration with the European Federation and the Italian Section. The theme was "Theosophy: Tradition and Revolution". The Presidential Agent and his wife made a donation of Euros 10,000 for the construction of a new Archives space at the Adyar Library building in order to protect the Archives from the Adyar River flooding.

The Theosophical Society in **Ukraine** set up Lodge Perfect Way in Kyiv in April. The 13th Annual Convention was held in November, with a huge attendance from almost all Lodges. On 8 May an annual Scientific Interdisciplinary Conference was held in Dnipro on "H. P. Blavatsky and Contemporaneity: Spiritual Aspects of Modern Outlook". Jacques Mahnich delivered two talks, one exclusively on HPB's heritage, and the second on "Science and Theosophy: A Search for Bridges", attended by 80 participants. Summer school was held on "In the Stream

of Divine Love". The first bilingual magazine *Theosophy and Science* was published. The study centers in many places continued with their annual activities. The TOS in Ukraine has also been very active in helping the TS by gathering volunteers.

Julie Cunningham, the Organizing Secretary of the **Welsh** Regional Association reports that they have 3 Lodges and one Study Centre, with 74 members. Regular study meetings are held throughout the year. Mr Vic Hao Chin, Jr, from the Philippines, Fiona Odgren from Vancouver, and Jenny Baker, National President of the English Section, visited them and gave illuminating talks.

The **American Section (TSA)** reports that they have included Daya Kujansuu from Michigan in their National Board of Directors for the Central District. The Theosophy Wiki website has approximately 25,000 viewers per month and the videos on the TSA YouTube channels are having over a million visitors. In fact, this makes the theosophical teachings, the Ageless Wisdom, easily accessible to those who are sincerely searching. People across the country and the world can now join and participate in eight weekly online groups which would help human society to understand the TS Mission. They also offer many online classes such as Pablo Sender's course on "The Birth of Humanity" and Ravi Ravindra's course on "Nourishing the Pilgrim Soul". The public programs department provided high-quality programs for study, meditation, service, and the community that are of

interest to new members. The AV department completed a combined effort with the famous author of *Proof of Heaven*, neurosurgeon Eben Alexander and his partner, Karen Newell, to produce a multimedia program on "Traversing the Depths of Consciousness".

The General Secretary of the **Argentinian** Section, Mr Esteban Langlois, reports that in October, together with the San Lorenzo Lodge, their National Days were organized with the theme "Challenging Together the Power of Illusion". The program was held in two parts: the first following the text of J. J. Van der Leeuw's *Gods in Exile*, and the other based on the *Yoga-sutras of Patañjali*. In the concluding session Eduardo Gramaglia was the guest speaker. National Days were held from 30 March to 1 April with the focus on "Human Regeneration: There Is No Other Path to Go."

The **Brazilian** Section, with 603 members, 33 Lodges and 20 study groups has a presence in most parts of Brazil. The National Section departments continued their work, including a program to avoid depression and suicide in collaboration with UNB, Brasilia University, with lectures on "Happiness and the Meaning of Life". They had two National Meetings: one was the 37th Summer School in January focusing on "Meditation and the Occult Side of Things"; the other was the International Theosophical School on "Dharma: The Call from Within".

The **Bolivian** Section celebrated the centenary of the TS in that country from 23 to 27 August with workshops and con-

ferences. Learned theosophists led the discussions and contributed to the deliberations. All the branches were active, holding meetings and discussions as well as participating in national events.

Maryse DeCoste was reelected in May as the President of the **Canadian** Theosophical Association for a second term. It is good to know that their membership is increasing. Their National Convention was in Calgary, Alberta, on "Those Who Came Before Us", with four speakers: Michael Gomes spoke on Mabel Collins; Fiona Odgren selected Helena Roerich as her subject; Naftaly Ramrajkar led a workshop on "The Mystic Poetry of Rumi, Saint Kabir, and Others"; and Reid Pollock chose the Count of St Germain. For the 2019 Convention, Vancouver was selected as the venue. David Sztain was appointed as their new National Treasurer.

In August Mrs Ligia Montiel was elected as Presidential Representative for the TS in **Costa Rica**, replacing her predecessor of many years, Mrs María Orlich Soto. They worked in harmony during the year with the collaboration of all 5 Lodges. In early June they received me and Mrs Isis Resende, President of the Inter-American Federation. We both spoke to members and also gave public lectures. Their Summer School was attended by members of the 5 Lodges and also those coming from the rest of Central America and the Caribbean. They appreciated the presentation of visiting lecturer Mr Martin Leiderman, from the USA, who discussed the "Cosmogenesis" portion of HPB's *The Secret Doctrine*.

As reported by the General Secretary of the **Cuban Section**, they had their Annual Convention on 14–15 January on “A Testament of HPB for Us”. In late May I visited the Cuban Section with my wife, Lily, and gave two talks: “Overcoming Fear” and “The Four Minds” followed by question-answer sessions. It is good to know that this year members are showing increased interest in studying *The Secret Doctrine* and *Isis Unveiled*.

The **Dominican Republic** Presidential Agency has Lodges Atma and Nueva Aurora, and HPB study group. On 22 November Lodge Atma celebrated the Anniversary of the TS with the participation of Eriberto Rosado as speaker. It also sponsored a three-session course on “What is Karma”, which was open to the public free of cost. HPB Study group continues with the book *The Seven Jewels of Wisdom*. The Nueva Aurora Lodge celebrated the White Lotus Day. They have started Hatha Yoga and meditation sessions twice a week.

During the year, the **Orlando Lodge** in the USA, attached to Adyar, continued their regular monthly programs of Meditation, Healing Circles, and School of Theosophy. They also celebrated Adyar and White Lotus Days.

The Fraternity Lodge in Asunción, **Paraguay**, has 16 members. Discussions on theosophical studies is a regular feature, and it has an established digital network with the TS in Argentina, Spain, and Brazil, and the Presidential Agent of the STI apart from some branches of TS in USA and Europe. The Presidential Representative

in **Peru** reports that they held 15 public meetings during the year, and that their membership grew to 38. They celebrated the 94th anniversary of the foundation of the TS in Peru on 1 June, which coincided with the date that HPB Lodge was founded.

After the visit of Hurricane Maria on 21 September to **Puerto Rico** and the Caribbean, the Presidential Agency could not hold regular Lodge meetings until February. I visited Puerto Rico in March with my wife, Lily, and gave two public talks, which were also attended by a group of members from the Dominican Republic. I went to the most affected community and visited Gabriela Mistral High School, which follows Montessori-like teaching methods. I interacted with teachers, students, and their parents. It was quite interesting. In December the TOS made the shelter, “La Casa de Todos” (Everyone’s Home) for their wonderful project “Return a Smile to a Child after Hurricane Maria”. This is a shelter for battered children and their mothers. TS members took emergency articles, canned food, cleaning detergents, coloring books and crayons, and educational toys for the younger children.

In **Uruguay** every Lodge meets weekly to study important theosophical books. They encourage lending books to members and are open twice a week for the public to read theosophical materials free of cost. The Presidential Representative of the TS in **Venezuela** reports that the members of their two Lodges meet to study together every Sunday for two hours. In these meetings, half an hour is

dedicated to meditation for peace. Sister Mayira Alonzo, plastic artist, made a presentation of her works with the theme: "The Complexities of the Ephemeral in the Whole of Existence".

The **Pan-African Theosophical Federation** (PATF) is composed of three Sections: (1) East and Central Africa, (2) West Africa, and (3) South Africa. The General Secretaries of these Sections are ex officio members of PATF. The **East and Central African** Section is active though adversely affected by loss of members. It consists of Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Zambia. The TOS activities are praiseworthy.

The centenary celebration of Nairobi Lodge in **Kenya** Region was the highlight of this year which started with the planting of 250 Moi trees at "Moi Forces Academy" in May. Ananya Sri Ram Rajan visited Nairobi in September and conducted a weekend seminar on "Towards a Just World" and a public lecture on "Human Behaviour in Today's World".

Dar es Salaam Lodge in **Tanzania** Region had 12 ladies' meetings and 4 Lodge meetings in the whole year. Studies on theosophical literature are continued on 3rd Saturday of each month. Members are active in TOS distributing food to orphanages, food and blankets to the needy and helping deserving students with school and college fees. Nile Lodge, Kampala in **Uganda** Region undertook a study from *At the Feet of the Master* and *Reincarnation*.

Kitwe Lodge, **Zambia** Region meets every Saturday with good attendance. The

members continue their study on *Death and After*. Mufulira Lodge in Zambia Region meets every Sunday. All important theosophical days are celebrated by the members though the membership is only 7. The total membership of the East and Central African section has increased slightly. This year it is 138.

The **West African Section** has a problem of the Internet being unreliable and hence communication is reportedly difficult. Nonetheless, all efforts are made to be in touch. The **South African Section** has been plagued with vandalism and theft of property. Efforts are being made to overcome these local issues. The Lodges in Johannesburg and Pretoria are active. The Maputo Lodge in Mozambique is in good health. It is commendable that a new South African TS Section national website will be in position soon. All the Sections, however, are in financial stress due to the dampened international trade of the countries.

Togo Regional Association has two Lodges with 20 active members and 13 sympathizers. Study meetings take place twice a month in all the Lodges and at Kara. *The Key to Theosophy* and *Light on the Path* are studied in two lodges.

At the **International Headquarters** in Adyar the renovation work of Blavatsky Bungalow and the Headquarters Building area continued at a steady pace. In the **Archives and Museum** department, 30 research scholars used the facilities, coming in person or requesting scanned materials by email. The Convention archival exhibition on "Dr Annie Besant

— A Hundred Years Ago”, inaugurated by international Vice-President Dr Deepa Padhi, was well received. The Archives team consists of Mrs V. Vedavathi, Mr Mohan Mani and Ms Jaishree Kannan. Mr Bernd Jesse’s contribution as a volunteer was very much appreciated.

In 1886 President-Founder Col H. S. Olcott established the now world-reputed **Adyar Library and Research Centre**. Dr T. Narayanan Kutty is the current Director and Prof. C. A. Shinde the Chief Librarian, with 14 supporting staff. The automation and digitalization of Hinduism and Theosophy books was completed. A total of 38,000 books were checked for automation work and those in bad condition were scanned. They were rearranged in the shelves and listed on a printout available in the reading room. In addition to the regular Library display we had a year-long special exhibition of photographs on “Flora and Fauna of Adyar”, taken by Prof. A. Chandrasekharan. Over 1,050 visitors, including many from Chennai schools, came to see it. The Library was used by 1,200 registered reader members and 280 borrowers (out of 760) used the Library this year. About 3,500 books were read in the reading room, 400 books were borrowed, and 1,000 manuscripts consulted.

The **School of the Wisdom** began their courses in Adyar in November, with Mr Jon Knebel, from the TS in America, covering much material on the meaning of the Theosophical Movement. In December, the Ven. Olande Ananda, from Sri Lanka, discussed the difference

between concept and reality, an ongoing, endless process on the spiritual path. In January, Mr Vicente Hao Chin, Jr, went deeply into the process of self-awareness, leading to self-transformation, the responsibility of every human being. Dr José Foglia introduced the anatomical background of our spiritual journey, pointing out directions for investigation if we are to be true to our real selves.

The Theosophical Order of Service (TOS) is present in 35 of the 55 countries where the TS is active. It is headed by me as ex-officio President, and an International Secretary (IS), currently Ms Nancy Secrest, who is appointed by the President. The IS administers and coordinates the TOS from wherever she is located, currently in Adyar, India.

The TOS has several outreach avenues. David Sztain of TOS Canada edits our *TOS: Intouch* online e-newsletter, which is published quarterly and includes articles on issues relating to service written by TOS members and others. Our webmaster, Rozi Ulics, of TOS USA, is creating a new website, but its address currently remains: <international.theoservice.org>. We continue to increase the activity on our TOS International Facebook Page, <facebook.com/tosinternational/>, and our following is growing.

This year the 4th TOS International Conference was held in Singapore from 9 to 10 August. Nearly 70 delegates from 17 countries attended. The dedication to service of TOS groups and individuals around the world benefited thousands of poor students, needy persons, ailing

patients, the aged, the blind, the handicapped, orphans, animals, and the environment. This year funds were collected and aid is being given for flood relief efforts in Kerala, India.

As to **travels and activities by International Headquarters' officers**, in January I participated in the New Zealand Section's annual Convention held in Palmerston, and also spoke to members in Auckland and Hamilton. The following month I gave a meditation workshop for non-TS members in New York City at The Open Center. In late May and early June it was a Caribbean Basin tour, giving talks for the Florida Federation in Miami (USA) and on a round-trip cruiser from Miami to the Bahamas, after which I flew to San Juan, Puerto Rico (USA), and to Havana, Cuba, in both of which I gave several talks to members and the public. Then I visited the TS in El Salvador and spoke to members and non-members of the TS in Costa Rica, both in Central America. In late June and early July a General Council meeting and Strategic Planning sessions were held in the International Theosophical Centre (ITC) in Naarden, the Netherlands, also attended by the other three international officers whose reports are below. The 11th World Congress was held in Singapore in early August, followed by the 4th International TOS Conference, in both of which I gave a total of four talks. While in India from mid-August to late October, I travelled to Dombivali, speaking for the Bombay Federation members, near Mumbai. In Bhowali I participated in an Indian Section goal-setting meeting at the

Himalayan Theosophical Centre, and spoke at the Karnataka Federation annual conference in Bangalore.

The Vice-President, Dr Deepa Padhi, attended the Foundation Day commemoration on 17 November as the Chief Guest of the Utkal Theosophical Federation, Odisha, speaking on "The Relevance of Theosophy in the Present Day". She inaugurated the "1917: Dr Besant's Impact on Indian Society" exhibition at the Adyar Museum on 31 December, and chaired the inaugural session of the 126th Indian Section Convention on 1 January at the Adyar Theatre. She gave the inaugural address on "Working Towards the Future" at the TOS Summer camp held at the Bhowali Himalayan Centre from 29 to 31 May. Dr Padhi also attended the General Council meeting and Strategic Planning sessions in Naarden, and participated in the 11th World Congress in Singapore, delivering a talk on "Consciousness, Compassion, and Contemplation". She was a participant in the 4th TOS International Conference which followed the World Congress and made a presentation on "Women's Empowerment" — a project of TOS, Odisha.

In March and April, the Secretary of the TS, Ms Marja Artamaa, gave a total of three talks in Adyar: At the TOS South Zone Conference, on "Service through Will, Wisdom, and Love"; at the South India Conference, the welcome address; and at the Gandhinagar Lodge, another talk on "Advantages of Lodge Meetings". In May she went to the Bhowali Centre

with three others to inaugurate the TOS Indian Camp. She also attended the General Council meeting and planning sessions at the ITC, Naarden, in early July and the World Congress in Singapore in early August. As Chief Guest in the Nalbari District of the Assam Federation, she gave the Usha Deka Memorial Lecture, "All Is One in the Light of Theosophy" on 23 September, and the next day she visited the Lodges of the same Federation in Guwahati.

The Treasurer of the TS, Ms Nancy Secrest, gave the inaugural address in celebration of Annie Besant's birthday on 1 October at Adyar, where, at the end of March, she was also Chief Guest at the TOS South Zonal Conference this year, speaking about the importance of service in our lives. She also spoke on Yoga Day at the Olcott Memorial Higher Secondary School (OMHSS), Adyar. At the end of May she traveled to the TS Centre in Bhowali, where a TOS Camp was being

held. As the Chief Guest, she spoke about theosophical education. In early July she also attended the General Council meeting and Strategic Planning sessions in Naarden. At the World Congress in Singapore, this time as International Secretary of the TOS, she gave an overview of TOS activities worldwide and led the 4th International TOS Conference immediately following the World Congress. In late August she went to Pumpkin Hollow, a theosophical center north of New York City, where she participated in a joint session with Mr Michael Gomes, Theosophical historian, on "Western Esotericism". A joint TS/TOS event in Jaipur, India, immediately followed, where she again spoke on theosophical education.

This is the end of my report and I wish you all here present and around the world my very best wishes for a fruitful and harmonious Convention experience.

TIM BOYD

THE TREASURER'S REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

TREASURER'S REPORT — AUDITED ACCOUNTS 2017-2018

Respected members of the General Council,

The audited financial statements of the accounts of the Society for the year ended 31 March 2018 are already in your hands (main financials sent online and booklets distributed at GC meeting 30.12.18). Please find hereunder the salient points of income and expenditure of the Society for the fiscal year 2017-2018.

1. INCOME

The details of the income for the year ended 31 March 2018 as compared to the previous two year are as follows:

	Financial Year		
	2017-2018	2016-2017	2015-2016
a) Gross interest received from investments	26,090,897	26,228,841	26,383,835
b) Fees and dues	2,683,884	3,294,686	2,969,070
c) License fees	1,210,000	2,900,000	200,000
d) Adyar Day donations	196,627	208,954	284,648
e) General donations	468,966	1,681,390	338,672
f) Surplus from publishing house	<u>382,513</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>775,928</u>
Sub Total – gross income	31,032,887	34,313,871	30,952,153
Less: Interest transferred to earmarked funds	<u>(12,042,687)</u>	<u>(11,647,904)</u>	<u>12,718,691)</u>
Total Income	<u>18,990,200</u>	<u>22,665,967</u>	<u>18,233,462</u>

The gross income for the year as shown above decreased from the previous year by Rs. 32.8 lakhs. However, the general donations amount included in gross income for the previous year, 2016-2017, contains a large, one time donation of Rs. 12.6 lakhs that accounts for most of that year's increase. That donation was for repair and construction work completed at the Social Welfare Centre. As this is an unusual donation it should be disregarded in the comparison. The gross income is better compared with that of the 2015-2016 fiscal year which comparison shows an increase in gross income of Rs. 80,734. Income from interest on investments has remained reasonably stable despite continued lowering of interest rates at banks and other institutions. The difference in License fees of Rs. 17.0 lakhs was for past due fees from KFI awarded to the TS in fiscal 2016-17. Adyar Day donations continued to decline while TPH sales made a comeback of Rs. 3.8 lakhs after last year's loss. There were further receipts from the sales of shares of stock. Rs. 28.7 lakhs the proceeds of which were added to the Indian Regeneration Endowment Fund and Rs. 125.3 lakhs added to the

N. Sri Ram Charitable Endowment Fund. The ABC endowment fund received two legacies this year, Rs. 1.0 crores from the Estate of Miss Piloo Nadir Garda and Rs. 1.25 lakhs from Sumanakale. There were also substantial receipts of Rs. 103.2 lakhs to the Adyar renovation fund, Rs. 21.8 lakhs to the Animal welfare fund and Rs. 29.9 lakhs to the Convention and seminar fund. The generosity of our donors is much appreciated. Work in progress on Blavatsky Bungalow utilized Adyar renovation funds, increasing our fixed assets by Rs. 78.1 lakhs for fiscal 2017–2018.

2. EXPENDITURE

The net expenditure under different major heads after taking credit for the interest appropriated from the respective funds and the funds utilized during the year as compared to those of the previous two years were as under:

Nature of expenditure	Financial Year		
	2017–2018	2016–2017	2015–2016
a) Departments	18,664,775	13,096,664	9,014,595
b) Charitable work	444,873	795,862	595,581
c) Propagation of Theosophy	1,698,560	1,896,939	3,369,888
d) International offices	2,269,698	2,136,249	1,918,829
e) Establishment	5,425,621	5,721,100	5,354,363
f) Other expense	<u>2,205,848</u>	<u>3,566,439</u>	<u>3,304,867</u>
Totals	<u>30,709,375</u>	<u>27,213,253</u>	<u>23,558,123</u>

The gross functional results of each Major Head are explained hereunder:

2 (a) Departments

	2017–2018	2016–2017	2015–2016
i) Bhojanasala & Leadbeater Chambers	176,442	692,570	1,207,189
ii) Garden	2,682,778	1,680,566	1,844,743
iii) Maintenance	<u>16,879,555</u>	<u>12,173,528</u>	<u>6,777,109</u>
Totals	<u>19,738,775</u>	<u>14,546,664</u>	<u>9,829,041</u>

The operations of Bhojanasala & Leadbeater Chambers resulted in a decreased deficit again this year. This is due to decreases in almost all expenditure items. The costs of food, salaries, light and water and repairs and maintenance all decreased.

The Garden department received a corporate donation this year of Rs. 3.0 lakhs to be used for environmental development. This allowed over 1000 new trees, bushes and

other plants to be planted restoring the flora lost as a result of the cyclone two years ago. The Garden of Remembrance was also re-landscaped and its pools cleared of brine. As a result white lotus bloomed there for the first time in many years. Pipe was also laid to supply water directly to the grounds relieving much of the formerly manual labor of carrying water to newly planted areas.

The Maintenance department came in under budget this year even though Maintenance expenditures increased by Rs. 43.4 lakhs due to concentrated efforts to repair buildings needed to house delegates during the annual convention. In 2019–2020 attention will turn to the much needed renovation of infrastructure. Although not a Maintenance expense, the renovation of Blavatsky Bungalow began in June 2017. As of the end of fiscal 2017–2018 Rs. 78.1 lakhs was added to fixed assets for this ‘Work in Progress’ which is being funded by donations to the Adyar Renovation Fund.

2 (b) Charitable Work

	2017–2018	2016–2017	2015–2016
i) Animal Welfare (including Dispensary)	595,709	1,363,180	1,569,387
ii) Besant Memorial Animal Dispensary	1,651,421	-	-
iii) Education	2,312,608	1,934,375	1,824,803
iv) Welfare Grants	431,229	557,031	384,950
v) Free Dispensary & Medical Aid	234,142	309,904	329,281
vi) School fees & books	181,000	213,000	210,500
vii) Social Welfare	1,393,579	140,264	38,377
viii) Others	11,910	11,681	11,600
ix) Cyclone Relief	310,000	182,267	219,000
x) Theosophical Order of Service	<u>136,540</u>	<u>60.00</u>	<u>-</u>
Totals	<u>7,258,138</u>	<u>4,771,702</u>	<u>4,587,898</u>

Donations restricted to the above usages are kept in invested ‘Funds’ until needed to cover expenses. A total of Rs. 68.1 lakhs was utilized this year toward the above expenses resulting in actual costs to the TS general fund of only Rs. 4.4 lakhs. The Besant Memorial Animal Dispensary (BMAD) had greatly increased donations this year, partially due to the use of social media, that completely covered its expenses. The TS grant to the Olcott Memorial Higher Secondary School (OMHSS) was increased this year by Rs. 5.0 lakhs, from Rs. 10.0 to Rs. 15.0 lakhs. A donation of Rs. 12.6 lakhs, received from a Lodge in the United States, was targeted toward physical improvements made at the Social Welfare Centre (SWC). Rs. 3.1 lakhs of Cyclone Relief funds was used to repair the Garden of Meditation building which was damaged due to the cyclone, but had not as yet been repaired. While not a department of the TS some funds had been donated to the Theosophical Order of Service in the past few years through the TS and have been used toward specific TOS programs.

2 (c) Propagation of Theosophy

	2017-2018	2016-2017	2015-2016
i) Adyar Library & Research Centre	2,642,523	1,677,720	1,711,782
ii) Theosophical Publishing House	-	29,801	-
iii) The Theosophist & Adyar Newsletter	632,587	518,054	442,632
iv) Archives & Museum	443,769	417,016	582,666
v) Theosophy Science Centre	516	-	-
vi) Vasanta Press	566,433	652,691	658,648
vii) School of Wisdom	345,255	280,641	51,840
viii) Book Gifts	7,923	198,324	119,730
ix) Convention & Seminars	1,842,877	1,953,281	1,169,074
x) Others	-	1,657	3,238
xi) Grant to Indian Section	-	-	<u>3,000,000</u>
Totals	<u>6,481,883</u>	<u>5,729,185</u>	<u>7,739,610</u>

2 (c) (i) Adyar Library & Research Centre	2017-2018	2016-2017	2015-2016
i) Books publication — loss incurred	955,648	285,800	96,736
ii) Deficit for the year	2,642,523	1,677,720	1,771,782
iii) Income from Juhu property (3 years)	-	188,081	-

The above three factors are given separately for the information of the members from the accounts of the Adyar Library. The stock of publications is increasing from year to year because the sales of the journal are less than the free distribution. The increase of Rs. 9.6 lakhs in the deficit for the year is mostly explained by the increased loss of Rs. 6.7 lakhs from the publication of books, with the remainder due to increased salaries and other expenses.

2 (c) (ii) The Theosophical Publishing House:	2017-2018	2016-2017	2015-2016
i) Gross profit from sale of publications	1,899,912	1,573,186	2,341,304
ii) Royalty and copyright fees	97,174	236,138	164,672
iii) Profit from <i>Wake Up India</i> & <i>Digest</i>	(37,250)	99,025	6,631
iv) Net surplus of the TPH	382,513	(29,801)	775,928
v) Loss from <i>The Theosophist</i> & <i>Adyar Newsletter</i>	(632,587)	(518,054)	(443,000)

The results of the different activities of the TPH are shown above. The structure at TPH is in the process of being reexamined and revised. As of the current fiscal year, 2018–2019, the main accounting functions for TPH have been transferred to the Treasury Department, with TPH staff continuing to maintain their inventory, sales and detailed sub-ledger records. The loss from the publication of *The Theosophist* & the *Adyar Newsletter* continues to increase as the cost of these publications exceeds the price charged for them.

2 (c) (vi) Vasanta Press:

The deficit in the production account, representing the printing activity of the Press, at Rs. 2.33 lakhs mirrored last year's deficit of Rs. 2.23 lakhs compared to the surplus of Rs. 1.95 lakhs in 2015–2016. The reduction of printing work is said to be the cause of the deficits. The net deficit for the year 2017–2018 was Rs. 5.66 lakhs. The decrease from 2016–2017 of Rs. 87,000 was due to a decrease in salary and salary related expenses.

2 (c) (viii) Book Gifts:

Most of the usage of the Book Gifts fund comes from the circulation of reprinted books by TPH or the gifting of books at major events. The dramatic decrease to Rs. 7,923 in fiscal 2017–2018 from Rs. 198,324 in 2016–2017 was due to the reprinting of only two titles, and no major events occurring during fiscal 2017–2018.

3. ESTABLISHMENT

The administrative expenditures on the establishment of other departments remained stable as compared to the previous two years.

After the collapse of the tensile roof of the Adyar Theatre, it was decided by the Executive Committee to shelve the project. Negotiations with the contractor to take back the materials and reimburse the TS for a portion of our costs were pursued. (Those negotiations subsequently failed). In this context, the Society's statutory auditors estimated the loss at Rs. 12 lakhs. Since the matter was under negotiation and not yet finalized at the end of fiscal 2016–2017, our auditors agreed to a provision for an expected loss of Rs. 6 lakhs during that year. The remaining loss of Rs. 6 lakhs, netted against the sale of remaining materials to an outside party of Rs. 73,062 was taken this year, 2017–2018. This matter is now closed.

4. NET DEFICIT

The net expenditures incurred after appropriating part of the income from relevant Endowment and Other Funds amounted to about Rs. 307.0 lakhs resulting in a net deficit of Rs. 117.2 lakhs compared to Rs. 45.47 Lakhs of last year, an increase of Rs. 71.72 lakhs. This is due to a combination of a decrease in income of Rs. 36.76 lakhs and an increase in expenditures of Rs. 34.96. Income decreased in all categories except TPH, where sales showed a marked increase, with the largest decrease being shown in general donations. See the detailed explanation in No. 1 above. The largest increase in expenditures was in the Maintenance Department. With Blavatsky Bungalow under renovation and therefore not available to house delegates during the convention, a concentrated effort to repair alternative housing was found to be necessary. See the detailed explanation in No. 2 above.

5. CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Capital additions/improvements totaling Rs. 107.26 lakhs were added to Fixed Assets this fiscal year, 2017–2018. The largest of these expenditures, Rs. 78.08 lakhs, was for the 'Work in Progress' on the renovation of Blavatsky Bungalow through 31 March 2018. This project is due to be completed next year and is being financed with donations to the Adyar Renovation Fund. Plant and machinery purchases consisting of: A/C for the Library and Treasury, computer equipment for the Library, Treasury and LBC, surgical and other equipment for the Besant Memorial Animal Dispensary, totaling Rs. 16.55 lakhs were also made. The purchase of the BMAD equipment constituted 50% of that amount and was covered by a very generous donation for that purpose. A car for the President's usage was also purchased this year, replacing the seventeen year old vehicle that had been in use. This purchase was also financed with specific donations.

6. FUNDS & INVESTMENTS

Under statute, any shares of companies received by way of donation shall be encashed within one year from the date of receipt. Pursuant to this statute, receipts from the sales of shares of stock in the amount of Rs. 28.7 lakhs were added to the Indian Regeneration Endowment Fund and Rs. 125.3 lakhs was added to the N. Sri Ram Charitable Endowment Fund. The services of the two trustees of the N. Sriram Charitable Trust are appreciated.

The investments of the Society totaled Rs. 336,045,154 at the end of this fiscal year as compared with Rs. 316,374,346 at the end of the 2016–2017 fiscal year. These funds are invested in scheduled banks and financial institutions and government bonds, with a small percentage invested in mutual funds.

7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the Theosophical Society as its Treasurer. Never in my wildest dreams did I ever think I would be here in this place and in this position and wish to thank the Masters for guiding me to it. I also thank President Tim Boyd and the General Council for the trust they have placed in me, and wish to acknowledge the Executive Committee, the General Manager and Department Heads for all of their assistance throughout the year. Last but certainly not least, none of this work could possibly have been accomplished without the diligent and capable work of the Treasury staff. I gratefully thank and acknowledge them for their efforts.

Chennai
Date: 25-10-2018

Nancy Secrest
Honorary Treasurer

FEES AND DUES RECEIVED

From 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 (in Rupees)

	Name of Section etc.	2016-2017	2017-2018
The Theosophical Society in:	Africa, East and Central	655	—
	Africa, South	—	—
	Africa, Central	—	—
	Africa, West	—	—
	America Central	4,838	2,503
	Argentina	100,275	111,766
	Asia, East and South-East:		
	— Japan	—	—
	— Malaysia	—	—
	— Singapore	—	—
	Australia	—	259,219
	Austria	—	—
	Bangladesh	2,580	2,580
	Belgium	31,733	—
	Bolivia	37,216	—
	Brazil	1,333,630	—
	Canada	20,149	23,426
	Costa Rica	23,759	—
	Chile	51,316	—
	Colombia	—	—
	Cuba	—	—
	Dominican Republic	14,103	10,893
	England	—	377,232
	Finland	107,900	99,560
	France	72,118	—
	Germany	43,711	58,450
	Greece	—	—
	Hungary	31,533	12,698
	Iceland	—	—
	India	132,954	145,943
	Indonesia	—	12,379
	Italy	213,139	165,882
	Ireland	13,659	12,223

Mexico	38,413	36,722
Netherlands, The	—	—
New Zealand	87,712	30,627
Norway	2,000	—
Paraguay	New	—
Pakistan	—	—
Peru	10,517	11,022
Philippines, The	—	—
Portugal	—	310,976
Puerto Rico	52,103	19,385
Russia	21,768	—
Scotland	—	34,695
Slovenia	13,299	40,201
Spain	—	94,216
Sri Lanka	—	—
Sweden	—	—
Switzerland	20,969	—
Togo	—	—
Ukraine	5,780	5,706
Uruguay	28,006	25,164
USA	604,665	614,807
Venezuela	26,440	27,858
Wales	—	20,074

Lodges attached to Adyar:

Lotus Lodge (Croatia)	13,299	10,903
EL Sol (Equador)	—	—
Arc en Ciel and Ananda		
Lodges (France)	22,633	25,686
Sofia Lodge (Indonesia)	4,800	—
Covenant Lodge (Israel)	63,174	56,711
Fraternidad (Paraguay)	4,500	—
Orlando Lodge (USA)	9,176	9,424
Blavatsky Lodge (Qatar)	—	—
Fellows-at-large	15,356	13,882

3,279,878	2,681,283
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**THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY,
BALANCE SHEET AS**

As at 31-3-2017	LIABILITIES	Schedule No.	As at 31-3-2018	
Rs.			Rs.	Rs.
38,652,304	General Fund:		34,105,018	
—	Balance as per last Balance Sheet		8,777,463	
38,652,304	Add: Transferred from OES		42,882,481	
4,547,286			11,719,175	
34,105,018	Less: Deficit for the year			31,163,306
197,820,198	Endowment Funds	7		223,502,625
101,731,790	Other Funds	8		109,702,795
15,738,094	Current Liabilities and Provisions	9		16,456,341
1,243,000	Legacy Deposits			1,118,000
350,638,100	TOTAL			381,943,067

This is the Balance Sheet referred to in our report.

For SRIHARI & CO.,
Chartered Accountants

CHENNAI
15.09.2018

E. S. NEELAKANTAN
Partner

ADYAR, CHENNAI 600 020
AT 31ST MARCH 2018

As at 31-3-20187	ASSETS	Schedule No.	As at 31-3-2018	
Rs.			Rs.	Rs.
17,679,786	Fixed Assets	1		25,911,916
	Investments: (At cost)	2		
316,374,346	In Scheduled Banks and Financial Institutions			336,045,154
	Current Assets, Loans and Advances:			
8,682,540	Stocks	3	7,366,917	
673,906	Sundry Debtors	4	538,460	
1,893,132	Loans and Advances	5	4,476,845	
5,334,390	Cash and Bank Balances	6	7,603,775	
16,583,968				19,985,997
350,638,100	TOTAL			381,943,067

Schedule Numbers 1 to 9 and Notes on Accounts
form part of the Balance Sheet.

For and on behalf of the Executive Committee of
THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

NANCY SECREST
Treasurer

**THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY,
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**

Year ended 31-3-2017	EXPENDITURE	Schedule No.	Year ended 31-3-2018
Rs.			Rs.
13,096,664	Departments	(A)	18,664,775
795,862	Charitable Work	(B)	444,873
1,896,939	Propagation of Theosophy	(C)	1,698,560
2,136,249	International Offices	(D)	2,269,698
5,721,100	Establishment	(E)	5,425,621
3,566,439	Other Expenses	(F)	2,205,848
27,213,253	TOTAL		30,709,375

For SRIHARI & CO.,
Chartered Accountants

CHENNAI
15.09.2018

E. S. NEELAKANTAN
Partner

ADYAR, CHENNAI 600 020

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2017

Year ended 31-3-2017	INCOME	Year ended 31-3-2018	
Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
—	Theosophical Publishing House		382,513
1,681,390	General Donations		468,966
26,228,841	Interest Received	26,090,897	
11,647,904	Less : Transferred to Various Funds	12,042,687	
14,580,937			14,048,210
3,294,686	Fees and Dues		2,683,884
2,900,000	License Fees		1,210,000
208,954	Adyar Day Donations		196,627
4,547,286	Deficit		11,719,175
27,213,253	TOTAL		30,709,375

Schedules A to F and Notes on Accounts form part of the Income & Expenditure

For and on behalf of the Executive Committee of
THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

NANCY SECREST
Hon. Treasurer

THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, ADYAR, CHENNAI 600 020
SCHEDULES FORMING PART OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE A/C: 2017-2018

HEAD OF ACCOUNT	EXPENDITURE	FUNDS TRANSFERRED	BALANCE
<u>Departments (Schedule A)</u>			
Bhojanasala & LBC	176,442	—	176,442
Garden	2,682,778	519,711	2,163,067
Maintenance	16,879,555	554,289	16,325,266
	19,738,775	1,074,000	18,664,775
<u>Charitable Work (Schedule B)</u>			
Animal Welfare	595,709	595,709	—
B. M. Animal Dispensary	1,651,421	1,651,421	—
Education	2,312,508	2,312,508	—
Welfare Grants	431,229	407,498	23,731
Free Dispensary and Medical Aid	234,142	—	234,142
School Fees and Books	181,000	—	181,000
Social Welfare Work	1,393,679	1,393,679	—
Others	11,910	5,910	6,000
Cyclone Relief	310,000	310,000	—
Theosophical Order of Service	136,540	136,540	—
	7,258,138	6,813,265	444,873
<u>Propogation of Theosophy (Schedule C)</u>			
Adyar Library and Research Centre	2,642,523	2,642,523	—
<i>The Theosophist</i> and <i>Adyar Newsletter</i>	632,587	—	632,587
Archives and Museum	443,769	—	443,769
Theosophy Science Centre	516	—	516
Vasanta Press	566,433	—	566,433
School of the Wisdom	345,255	290,000	55,255
Book Gift	7,923	7,923	—
Convention & Seminars	1,842,877	1,842,877	—
	6,481,883	4,783,323	1,698,560
<u>International Offices (Schedule D)</u>			
President and Vice-President	371,589	—	371,589
Treasurer	1,296,915	—	1,296,915
Secretary	415,245	—	415,245
Travelling	185,949	—	185,949
	2,269,698	—	2,269,698
<u>Establishment (Schedule E)</u>			
Headquarters	146,572	—	146,572
General Manager's Office	213,342	—	213,342
Housekeeping	1,173,034	—	1,173,034
Sanitation	725,704	—	725,704
Security	3,878,969	712,000	3,166,969
	6,137,621	712,000	5,425,621
<u>Other Expenses (Schedule F)</u>			
Insurance	13,311	-	13,311
Legal and Court Expenses	215,000	-	215,000
Audit Fees	182,100	-	182,100
Rates and Taxes	92,739	-	92,739
Bank Charges	12,018	-	12,018
Depreciation	800,761	-	800,761
Motor Car Expenses	46,900	-	46,900
Miscellaneous	104,053	-	104,053
Provision for Gratuity	138,966	-	138,966
Provision for bad debts	600,000	-	600,000
	2,205,848	-	2,205,848
Grand Total (Rs.)	44,091,963	13,382,588	30,709,375

For **SRIHARI & CO.,**
Chartered Accountants

For and on behalf of the Executive Committee of
THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

CHENNAI
15.09.2018

E. S. NEELAKANTAN
Partner

NANCY SECREST
Hon. Treasurer

THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31-3-2020

(Rupees in Thousands)

EXPENDITURE					INCOME				
	Budget 17-18	Actuals 17-18	Budget 18-19	Budget 19-20		Budget 17-18	Actuals 17-18	Budget 18-19	Budget 19-20
Departments (Net Expenditure)					Propagation of Theosophy				
Bhojanasala & Leadbeater Chambers	2,000	176	1,300	1,325	Theosophical Publishing House	460	383	—	—
Garden	2,500	2,683	2,515	3,342	General Donations	6,500	469	7,150	600
Maintenance	20,000	16,880	16,235	17,105	Interest	10,000	14,048	10,000	15,000
Utilization from Other Funds	(3,000)	(1,074)	(3,000)	(3,000)	Membership Fees and Dues	3,000	2,684	3,000	3,000
					Licence Fees (Damodar				
Charitable Work					Gardens pending)	1,200	1,210	200	—
Animal Welfare & BMAD	3,000	2,247	2,500	3,125	Miscellaneous Receipts	10	—	10	10
Education	3,500	2,312	2,500	2,600	Adyar Day Donations	200	196	200	200
Welfare Grants	200	431	350	500					
Free Dispensary & Medical Aid	500	234	500	244	Deficit	14,855	11,719	13,854	21,030
School Fees and Books	300	181	250	250					
Social Welfare Work	150	1,393	150	150					
HPB Hostel	150	—	150	150					
Cyclone Relief	—	310	—	—					
Theosophical Order of Service	—	137	—	—					
Others	10	12	10	10					
Utilization from Other Funds	(6,800)	(6,813)	(5,650)	(6,000)					
Propagation of Theosophy									
Adyar Library and Research Centre	2,300	2,642	2,315	2,223					
Theosophical Publishing House	—	—	51	1,285					
The Theosophist and Adyar Newsletter	500	633	857	920					
Wake Up India	200	—	82	—					
Vasanta Press	500	566	574	350					
Information and Public Relations	—	—	—	4					
(see Secretary)	—	—	—	—					
Archives and Museum	700	444	700	1,339					
Theosophy Science Centre	100	1	10	10					
School of the Wisdom	200	345	300	350					
Book Gift	200	8	200	200					
Convention & Seminars	2,000	1,843	3,500	2,196					
IT (see notes)	300	—	—	300					
Adyar Theosophical Academy (see notes)	—	—	—	120					
Utilization from Other Funds	(4,700)	(4,783)	(6,315)	(6,000)					
International Offices									
President and Vice-President	500	372	500	517					
Treasurer	1,500	1,297	1,600	1,709					
Secretary	600	415	600	498					
Utilization from Other Funds	—	186	—	—					
Establishment									
Headquarters	500	146	200	200					
General Manager's Office	300	213	300	199					
Housekeeping	1,000	1,173	1,300	2,024					
Sanitation	900	726	900	1,019					
Security	4,500	3,879	4,500	6,003					
Utilization from Other Funds	(70)	(712)	(60)	(100)					
Other Expenses									
Insurance Premiums	25	13	25	35					
Legal Expenses	200	215	200	200					
Audit Fees	150	182	150	160					
Rates and Taxes (and fees)	100	93	150	36					
Property taxes (see notes)	—	—	—	3,070					
Bank Charges	10	12	10	20					
Depreciation	800	801	900	900					
Motor Car Maintenance	150	47	150	100					
Miscellaneous	150	104	150	2					
Provision for Gratuity	100	139	150	150					
Provision for Bad Debts (see notes)	—	600	2,600	—					
	36,225	30,709	34,414	39,840		36,225	30,709	34,414	39,840

OFFICIAL AND HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS FOR 2018

OFFICIALS

1	Mr. S. S. S.
2	Mr. S. S. S.
3	Mr. S. S. S.
4	Mr. S. S. S.
5	Mr. S. S. S.
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9	Mr. S. S. S.
10	Mr. S. S. S.

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
General Council Member
Member
Member (Date 17 Jan 2017 to 3 Jan 2018)
Member
Member
Member

OFFICIALS

1	Mr. S. S. S.
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OFFICIALS

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OFFICIALS

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HEADQUARTERS

ADYAR, CHENNAI 600 020

INDIA

OFFICIALS

1	Mr. S. S. S.
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OFFICERS AND HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS FOR 2018

Executive Committee:

1.	Mr Tim Boyd	<i>President</i>
2.	Dr Deepa Padhi	<i>Vice-President</i>
3.	Ms Marja Artamaa	<i>Secretary</i>
4.	Ms Nancy Secrest	<i>Treasurer</i>
5.	Mr Pradeep Gohil	<i>General Council Member</i>
6.	Mrs Jenny Baker	<i>Member</i>
7.	Mr Jaikumar Kannan	<i>Member</i>
8.	Mr Ram Kumar	<i>Member (from 17 Jan 2017 to 9 Jan 2018)</i>
9.	Mr S. Harihara Raghavan	<i>Member</i>
10.	Prof. C. A. Shinde	<i>Member</i>
11.	Mr A. L. Somayaji	<i>Member</i>

General Manager

Mr Ram Kumar (until 9 Jan 2018)
Mr Jaikumar Kannan (from 10 Jan 2018)

Adyar Library *Director (Sanskrit Studies)*
Librarian

Editorial *Head*

Garden *Superintendent*

Housekeeping *Superintendent*

Leadbeater Chambers and Bhojanasala
Superintendent

Maintenance *Hon. Superintendent*

Medical Service *Doctors*

Museum and Archives *Officer in Charge*

Sanitation *Superintendent*

School of the Wisdom *Director*

Security *Superintendent*

Theosophical Publishing House *Manager*
Acting Manager

Vasanta Press *Manager*

Dr T. Narayankutty
Prof. C. A. Shinde
Mrs Clemice Petter
Mr Devadass
Mrs Vijaya Ravindran

Mrs Veena Ramachandran
Mr R. Somanathan
Dr S. D. Inbaraj & Dr R. Revathy
Ms Jaishree Kannan
Mrs Vijaya Ravindran
—
Mr K. Ravindran
Mr S. M. Umakanth Rao (until 31 Aug 2018)
Mr K. Jaikumar (from 1 Sept 2018)
Mr V. Gopalan

OLCOTT EDUCATION SOCIETY

	<i>Chairman</i>	Mr Tim Boyd
	<i>Secretary</i>	Mr Jaikumar Kannan (from 18 Nov 2017)
	<i>Treasurer</i>	Mr T. S. Jambunathan
Olcott Memorial School	<i>Headmistress</i>	Mrs R. Lalita
	<i>Director</i>	Dr P. Thirumalai
Social Welfare Centre	<i>Manager</i>	Mrs R. Mythili
Vocational Training Centre	<i>Director</i>	Mrs Sudha Natarajan
Besant Memorial Animal Dispensary	<i>Coordinator</i>	Mr Shravan Krishnan
HPB Hostel	<i>Warden</i>	Mr Umanath (from 1 Jun 2018)

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS 2018

National Societies and Sections	26
Regional Associations	13
Presidential Agencies	13
Lodges Attached to Adyar	9
Total Lodges	850
Total Centres	262
Total Membership 2017	25,306
Total Membership 2018	24,564

Section/Area	Number of		
	Lodges	Centres	Members
1. Africa, East and Central	5	-	138 S
2. Africa, South	6	-	101 S
3. Africa, West	11	-	242 S
4. America, Central	2	-	10 R
5. Argentina	17	7	293 S
6. Asia, South East	4	-	507 P
7. Australia	11	6	802 S
8. Austria	3	-	58 R
9. Bangladesh	6	-	305 P
10. Belgium	8	-	74 S
11. Bolivia	11	6	125 S
12. Brazil	33	20	603 S
13. Canada	5	2	140 R
14. Chile	3	-	42 R
15. Colombia	4	4	28 P
16. Costa Rica	5	-	51 P
17. Cuba	12	-	525 S
18. Dominican Rep.	2	1	34 P
19. England	34	-	633 S
20. Finland	22	1	360 S
21. France	22	-	314 S
22. Germany	7	2	128 S
23. Greece	8	-	142 S
24. Hungary	3	-	34 P
25. Iceland	8	-	283 S
26. India	387	95	11,144 S
27. Indonesia	15	1	209 S
28. Ireland	2	2	84 R

Section/Area	Number of			
	Lodges	Centres	Members	
29. Italy	25	19	877	S
30. Ivory Coast	-	-	-	R
31. Mexico	12	5	145	S
32. Netherlands	10	7	335	S
33. New Zealand	12	4	576	S
34. Norway	-	2	19	R
35. Pakistan	NA	NA	NA	(A)
36. Peru	2	-	38	P
37. Philippines	20	10	241	S
38. Portugal	10	3	118	S
39. Puerto Rico	3	-	43	P
40. Russia	8	1	125	P
41. Scotland	3	-	129	R
42. Slovenia	4	-	54	R
43. Spain	12	7	326	S
44. Sri Lanka	3	-	182	P
45. Sweden	6	1	147	S
46. Switzerland	2	-	27	P
47. Togo	2	-	22	R
48. Ukraine	7	3	100	R
49. USA	35	46	3,300	S
50. Uruguay	5	-	57	R
51. Venezuela	2	-	15	P
52. Wales	3	1	74	R
Subtotal	842	256	24,359	

Lodges/Members Attached to Adyar

	Lodges Centres Members		
	Lodges	Centres	Members
1. Croatia, Lotus Lodge	1	-	20 L
2. France, Arc-en-ciel & Ananda Lodges:	2	1	33 L
3. Israel, Covenant Lodge	1	5	64 L
4. Paraguay, Fraternidad	1	-	16 L
5. Qatar, Blavatsky Lodge	1	-	9 L
6. Slovenia, Blavatsky Lodge	1	-	17 L
7. USA, Orlando Lodge	1	-	15 L
8. Fellows-at-Large	-	-	31
Grand Total	850	262	24,564

S= Section, R= Regional Association, A= Presidential Agency, L= Lodge attached to Adyar.

Ivory Coast, Mexico, Scotland, Togo and Ecuador have figures of previous year in the absence of fresh data

THE THEOSOPHICAL PUBLISHING HOUSE

Today the world over, in spite of more and more people switching over to buying and reading books online, the sales in physical books continues to be good as a result of efforts made for a wide reach in making available through Facebook, WhatsApp, Amazon and payment made easy through Razorpay, Paytm, online payment through bank account, and so on. We continue to get good orders, a large chunk from India, and the world over. Publications of the Theosophical Publishing House continue to attract members and also the general public. This year

(April '17 to March '18), sales was Rs 33.1 lakhs, which is more or less equal to last year. There is a surplus of Rs 3.82 lakhs compared to last year's deficit of Rs 0.29 lakhs. The deficit on account of publication of journals this year is Rs 6.33 lakhs compared to the previous year deficit of Rs 5.18 lakhs. The subscription numbers continue to be the same as last year though there is variation in the amounts received. Three reprints were brought out during the year.

Mr K. Jaikumar
Acting Manager

THE ADYAR LIBRARY AND RESEARCH CENTRE

Col. H. S. Olcott established the Adyar Library and Research Centre in 1886 to revive the study of Oriental literature, philosophy and religion, and encourage scholars in Indian studies. At present the Library strength consists of Prof. C. A. Shinde as the Chief Librarian and Dr T. Narayanan Kutty as the Director, along with 14 other staff.

The editing and publication of the Adyar Library Research Journal *Brahmavidyā* and other books are entrusted to Dr T. Narayanan Kutty and Ms T. M. Ramani (Research Officer). Mrs S. Jayanthi and Mrs Maheshwari provide assistance in typing, processing and so on. Mrs Neeta Agrawal helps in the design of the cover page.

Recent Publications

Advaitasiddhipatram Adyar Library Series, no. 127 Sanskrit text edited by Dr

R. Mani Dravid and English translation with notes by Dr S. Bhuvanesvari

Works in Progress

1. *Brahmavidyā*, vol. no. 83 (2019)
2. *Mahāvākyārthamañjarī* Dr Saswati Mukherjee

Works Selected for New Publication

1. *Vivekamukuraḥ* — Mrs Padma Padmanabhan
2. *Bhāvajñānaprakāśana* of Śivarāma Śāstri with translation — Dr S. Bhuvanesvari
3. *Śāstradīpika* of Pārthasārathi Miśra with comm. *Mayūkhāvalī* — Swami Chitgananda
4. *Naiṣkarmya-siddhi-vivaranam* named *Vidyāsurabhi* of Jñānamṛtayati — Swami Chitgananda
5. *Tattvasuddhi* notes and English transcription — Dr Saswati Mukherjee
6. *Sūtrārtha-bodhinī* — Ms T. M. Ramani

7. *Yājñikyopaniṣad-vivaranam* with translation — Ms T. M. Ramani

8. *Aṣṭaślokī* with different commentaries — Dr Radha Raghunathan

9. *Nānārtha-śabdaratnam* with translation — Dr M. Uma Maheswari

10. *Āpastamba-śulbasūtra* the commentary of Sundararājan, a book on geometry in comparison with modern geometrical calculations — Smt. Lakshmi S.

Automation and digitalization work of books on Hinduism and Theosophy is completed. A total of 38,000 books were checked for automation work and rearranged on shelf. Printout of the list was made available in the reading room.

In addition to the regular Library displays we have a special exhibition of photographs on 'The Temples of India', photographed by Prof. A. Chandrasekharan. This has continued from the previous year and was viewable on all days including Sundays. Over 1,050 persons, including children from Chennai schools visited the photo exhibition.

Statistics

During the year, the Library was used by 1200 registered readers who consulted 3500 books in the reading room. It was also used by 280 (out of 760) borrowers who borrowed 400 books and consulted and handled 1000 manuscripts.

Acquisition of books: 10 books were purchased, 1000 accessed, and 1000 catalogued and added to the Library collection. Gifts received were 300 books, mostly from the President's office, TPH, Secretary's office, TPH Wheaton, and the Rashtriya Sanskrit Samsthan.

Conservation of books: 400 hard-cover books and 305 soft-cover books were repaired, 500 bound, 100 photocopied, and 700 wrapper-pasted, besides fumigation work.

Cataloguing of books and manuscripts: 4000 books were catalogued and recorded, 4500 books checked, 250 books scanned, and 500 manuscripts scanned.

Prof. C. A. Shinde
Librarian

THE SCHOOL OF THE WISDOM

The School aims to facilitate students to survey life 'from the centre', or bringing intuitive awareness to every part of life. In the progress towards Wisdom, a growing intimacy with all aspects of Nature is essential, fostered by the location of the School in the Adyar campus.

There were four sessions in the current year. The first was in November 2017 directed by Mr Jon Knebel from USA on "The Spiritual Path of the Theosophical Movement". The participants looked at core theosophical literature and the

presentations of the key leaders of the Society from time to time. Later, in December 2017, the Ven. Olande Ananda Thera from Sri Lanka led a session titled 'Concept and Reality', highlighting the rift between the two. This went beyond intellectual discussion into the experiential, by means of daily meditation practices throughout the session.

Mr Vicente Hao Chin Jr conducted the third session, 'Self-Transformation and the Spiritual Life' in early January 2018, consisting of tools and exercises that help

students to deepen self-awareness, leading to self-transformation, the responsibility of every human being. These can be passed on to others and eventually all Lodges and Sections can be practicing them. The last session of the year, 'The Meditative Brain: A Challenge to the Digital Revolution',

was presided over by Dr Jose Foglia, who introduced students to the anatomical background of the spiritual journey, pointing out directions to be investigated in order to be true to the real self.

Mrs Nora Simon
Assisting, The School of the Wisdom

ARCHIVES AND MUSEUM

About 30 research scholars made use of the facilities of the Adyar Archives during the year. The researchers either came in person or requested scanned copies of material available in the Archives. It was a rewarding year as it was possible to comply with almost all the requests from various parts of the world.

At present the Archives team consists of Mrs V. Vedavathi, Mr Mohan and Ms Jaishree Kannan. Mr Bernd Jesse

hugely contributed his services to the working of the Archives and Museum.

During the international Convention 2017-18 an exhibition was organized on the theme, 'Dr Annie Besant — A Hundred Years Ago'. It was inaugurated by Dr Deepa Padhi, the international Vice-President and was received well.

Ms Jaishree Kannan
Office in Charge

OLCOTT EDUCATION SOCIETY

The Olcott Memorial Higher Secondary School provides free education to economically underprivileged children with free textbooks and notebooks, food, and uniforms. There was a spate of activities in the school apart from the regular study curriculum. In sports, beyond the enthusiastic participation in the regular school sports day celebrations, students participated in district level matches in kabbadi and handball, and won prizes. They also took part in a leadership programme organized by Interact Club (a Rotary-sponsored service club for youngsters) and won prizes. The main holidays like Pongal, Christmas, and Childrens, Republic and Independence Days were celebrated with enthusiastic

team work by students and teachers. Some of the alumni of the School participated in the Republic Day celebrations and inspired the students by recollecting their association with the school.

Teachers were trained in new teaching methods, with hands-on sessions on digital education, English communication skills and so on. Career guidance was provided to senior students. Annual excursions were conducted to places of historical importance. Students showcased projects in social science and mathematics, which neighbourhood schools found impressive and suitable for emulation. Scholarships for higher studies were provided to deserving students using donations from well-wishers and alumni.

The HPB Hostel was restarted with schoolboys from distant places having no congenial atmosphere in their homes for studies. There is a resident warden who supervises the studies and conduct of the boys in the hostel. Meals are provided. Essential repairs were done and amenities provided.

Vocational Training Centre: Currently 25 students get free training in tailoring from 4 teachers via 2 courses for tailoring, embroidery, weaving and other craft-

related skills. All of them get jobs or start their own tailoring units. Mrs Sudha Natarajan heads the Centre.

The Social Welfare Centre with 45 young children is managed by Mrs R. Mythili. Children learn action songs, alpha-bets, rhymes, storytelling and music. Re-gular healthcare is provided by Dr Revathy.

Mr K. Jaikumar

Secretary, Olcott Education Society

BESANT MEMORIAL ANIMAL DISPENSARY

No report.

Mr Shravan Krishnan

Manager, BMAD

BESANT SCOUT CAMPING CENTRE

No report.

Mr A. Victor Frank

Besant Scout Camping Centre

THE THEOSOPHICAL ORDER OF SERVICE

The Theosophical Order of Service (TOS) is present in 35 of the 55 countries where the TS is active. It is headed by me as ex-officio President, and an International Secretary (IS), currently Ms Nancy Secrest, who is appointed by the President. The IS administers and coordinates the TOS from wherever she is located, currently in Adyar, India.

The TOS has several outreach avenues. David Sztain of TOS Canada edits our *TOS: Intouch* online e-newsletter, which is published quarterly and includes articles on issues relating to service written by TOS members and others. Our webmaster, Rozi Ulics, of TOS USA, is creating a new website, but its address currently remains: <international.theoservice.org>.

We continue to increase the activity on our TOS International Facebook Page, <facebook.com/tosinternational/>, and our following is growing.

This year the 4th TOS International Conference was held in Singapore from 9 to 10 August. Nearly 70 delegates from 17 countries attended. The dedication to service of TOS groups and individuals around the world benefited thousands of poor students, needy persons, ailing patients, the aged, the blind, the handicapped, orphans, animals, and the environment. This year funds were collected and aid is being given for flood relief efforts in Kerala, India.

Mrs Nancy Secrest

International Secretary, TOS

REPORTS OF WORK
IN
NATIONAL SOCIETIES AND SECTIONS
REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS
PRESIDENTIAL AGENCIES
LODGES ATTACHED TO ADYAR

(Where necessary, reports have been translated, edited or condensed)

NATIONAL SOCIETIES AND SECTIONS

AFRICA, EAST AND CENTRAL

Founded 1947, membership 138. The Section comprises of the countries of Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Zambia. The highlight of the year was the centenary of the Nairobi Lodge chartered in 1918. The celebrations included the visit of Ananya Sri Ram Rajan who conducted a weekend seminar on 'Towards a Just World' on 15–16 September 2018, and also delivered a public lecture on "Human Behaviour in Today's World". The membership has remained steady. The Nairobi Lodge is the model for the other Lodges with good membership and weekly activities. All Lodges celebrated Adyar Day, White Lotus Day, Buddha Purnima, Annie

Besants Birthday and Foundation Day. The Nairobi Lodge has regular weekly meetings, in English and Gujarati, book study sessions, meditation sessions, and a monthly historical series 'Journey through 100 years' has been started. The other Lodges, Dar es Salaam (Tanzania), Nile (Uganda), Kitwe and Mufulira (Zambia), also had regular meetings, including ladies meetings. The Nairobi Lodge has a book stall with a rich collection for sale. The Kitwe Lodge has a well-utilized library. The process of revising the Section constitution has been started.

Mr Narendra M. Shah
General Secretary

AFRICA, SOUTH

Founded 1909, membership 135 (2017). The Cape Town Lodge property was vandalized and caused a lot of issues. It was more feasible economically to auction it off and buy a new property, and the Lodge is being established in the new place. The Durban Lodge also was vandalized and had to carry out substantial renovations. The annual Convention was held in Durban in August 2018 with the theme 'Forward with Blavatsky'. Pretoria and Johannesburg Lodges, the largest in the Section, continue to do well and have introduced new activities. The Con-

stitutions of all the Lodges are being updated. The Johannesburg Lodge had introduced and was guided by a Management Plan for the last three years and similar plans will be used for managing the Section and other Lodges. There is a great need to actively practice brotherhood within our Lodges so that it does not merely remain an objective. A new website has been launched to disseminate the message of Theosophy out to a wider public in S. Africa.

Mr Desmond Douglas Chapman
Deputy General Secretary

AFRICA, WEST

Founded 1956, membership 242 (2017). No report.

Mr John Osmond Boakye
General Secretary

ARGENTINA

Founded 1920, membership 303 (2017). National days were organized in the city of San Lorenzo over 3 days in October 2017 on the theme, 'Challenging Together the Power of Illusion', following the texts of Van der Leeuw's *Gods in Exile* and Taimni's *Yoga-Sutras of Patanjali*, and concluding with a conference by Eduardo Gramaglia on 'Prometheus in Chains and Released'. National days were also observed in the city of Córdoba during 30 March to 1 April on the theme 'Human Regeneration: There Is No Other Path to Follow'. The summer and winter schools took place in the Theosophical Center of the City of San Rafael in the months of January and July respectively. The summer school consisted of a seminar developed by international speaker Martin Leiderman, entitled 'The Mysteries of Consciousness' based on the Stanzas of Dzyan from volumes I and III of *The Secret Doctrine*. The winter school was a training workshop for members, organized by Diego Fernandez, and dealt with the main teachings of the esoteric

philosophy, expository technique, theosophical study methodology and computer tools for dissemination. The General Secretary participated in the International Convention at Adyar in December 2017, and the Strategic Planning meeting at Naarden in July 2018. He also visited Branches at the cities of San Rafael, Rosario, Mendoza, Córdoba, and San Lorenzo during the year. Mr Martin Leiderman from USA visited Buenos Aires and spoke on 'Plato and the World of Ideas'. M/s Isaac Jauli from Spain and Enrique Reig from Mexico visited Rosario and Buenos Aires and did seminars on 'Death and Its Meaning' from the esoteric point of view. The YouTube channel continued publishing Tim Boyd's video blog with Spanish subtitles. The national quarterly magazine, *Theosophy in Argentina*, was continued. National Speakers visited different parts of the country conducting public conferences and workshops for members.

Mr Esteban Langlois
General Secretary

AUSTRALIA

Founded 1895, membership 793. The 2018 annual Convention was held in Brisbane in the University of Queensland campus, and the keynote speaker was

Richard Silberstein. The popular annual School of Theosophy was held on the theme 'HPBs Esoteric Instructions' at the Springbrook Centre with Michael Gomes,

who also gave many lectures around the country. Other events at the Centre included themes like Science and the Ancient Wisdom, 'The Science of Yoga', and so on. The Canyonleigh Centre had seminars on 'Pearls of the Orient' and 'Towards Stress-free Living: Cultivating Stillness'. A shortlist was identified of the priorities for the Section the topmost being the new website, which is being built up from scratch for flexibility and is soon set for launch. Existing information on the website has been reworked and new material included for a different look. Another top priority is an introductory video about the TS of which the outline has been completed. Other priorities include podcasts, upload of members testimonials and interviews, convention workshops, training packages, and so forth. The President had done a survey of the Lodges and Branches, and had received useful responses on the kind of training required, suggestions for the introductory video, and usage of vertical banners by each centre. Annual prizes are being awarded to students for work on the Perennial Philosophy in its Eastern and Western traditions

at various Australian universities. In addition to most of the TS centres in Australia, the President travelled to Singapore for the Indo-Pacific Conference, and Adyar for the International Convention and General Council meetings. The National Council met in January and June. The Executive Committee whose members are also directors of the Australian Theosophical Trust met every two months. The President sent 22 Letters to New Members during the year, covering a variety of topics, which was well appreciated, and, as a result of a request, the letters were also sent to all Lodges and Branches. The quarterly *Theosophy in Australia* has been in publication since May 1921, being a continuation at that time of *Theosophy in Australasia*, which in turn commenced publication in 1895 with a long and not insignificant history. Facebook and e-Bulletins, and electronic publicity for the TS libraries were some of the tools used for promotion during the year. All Lodges, Branches and Groups continued to meet regularly for study and discussions through the year.

Mrs Linda Oliveira
General Secretary

BELGIUM

Founded 1911, membership 74. Regular meetings are organised by all Lodges including weekly study groups based on theosophical classic texts, lectures, meditation courses and sessions and service work. A renewed Introductory Course on Theosophy in French and Dutch covering the basic topics of theosophical teachings

is being rolled out. A general lecture on theosophical core themes was given in Flanders for the first time. White Lotus Day was commemorated in honour of Blavatsky, by reading passages from the *Bhagavadgita*, *The Light of Asia* and *The Voice of the Silence*. Kim-Diêu visited from Paris to give two lectures:

Sustainable Living and Meditation. A few members visited the Theosophical World Congress in Singapore, and various activities in Lisbon, Naarden, Paris and

Marseilles. A priority for the future is to set up a website again.

Mrs Sabine Van Osta
General Secretary

BOLIVIA

Founded 1965, membership 122 [2016]. One hundred years of Theosophy in Bolivia was celebrated in August 2018 with workshops and conferences on topics such as Theosophy's influence on 21st century culture, How to Go beyond Inner Darkness in Personal Development, Meditation, a Necessary Element in Spiritual Progress, and so on. The branches in La Paz, Cochabamba and Santa Cruz cities studied the following books: *Light on the*

Path by Mabel Collins; *The Voice of the Silence*, *The Secret Doctrine* and *The Key to Theosophy* by H. P. Blavatsky; I. K. Taimni's *The Science of Yoga and Man, God and the Universe*; *The Ancient Wisdom* by Annie Besant; *The Mahatma Letters*; Katherine Beechey's *Daily Meditations*, in addition to many other theosophical texts.

Ms Guillermina Rios de Sandoval
General Secretary

BRAZIL

Founded 1920, membership 603. The Section has 33 Lodges spread over 20 Groups. The National Council met twice in the year. There were also two national meetings: the Summer School of Theosophy in January 2018 on the theme 'Meditation and the Occult Side of Things', and the International Theosophical School in Brasilia, on 'Dharma, the Call from Within' with visiting Lecturers Minor Lile and Leonie van Gelder from the USA. The Library has been upgraded with a new system. As part of promotion, a program to avoid depression and suicide has been included in partnership

with Brasilia University. A new website, <www.sociedadeteosofica.org.br> has been launched. A list of videos have been created which are accessible from the website through the link, Teosofia a Distancia. There is also satellite TV where lectures can be accessed any time of the day. The Brazilian TPH has published five books and reprinted one. The magazine, *Sophia*, is now in its 16th year of publication with 4000 copies being distributed through newsstands across the country.

Mr Sergio Carvalho de Moraes, Jr
General Secretary

CUBA

Founded 1905, membership 566 [2016]. The Section celebrated the Annual Convention in January with the theme

'A Testament of H. P. Blavatsky for Us'. The international President, Tim Boyd, visited in May, accompanied by Isis

Resende and Maria Rosa Martinez who helped with the translation. They also donated important books to the library and were surprised to know that editions more than a hundred years old are still in circulation. Mr Boyd participated in two conferences, Overcoming the Fear and The Four Minds, and the Q & A sessions that followed. In July a Theosophical Summer School workshop was organized for members on the theme 'The Personal Self and Meditation' based on Clara M. Codd's *Letters to Aspirants*. The quarterly electronic magazine, *Revista Teosofica Cubana*, continues to be published. The studies in the Lodges continued on topics

related to Krishnamurti, Freemasonry, and Christianity, and there has been an increased interest in *The Secret Doctrine* and *Isis Unveiled* recently. The importance of not losing sight of and defending the General Council resolutions on Freedom of Thought and Freedom of the Society in order to preserve theosophical thought has been brought home to the members. The elementary course in Theosophy had three runs during the year. Founders Day, Adyar Day and White Lotus Day were all celebrated on the nearest weekends of the dates.

Ms Barbara A. Fariñas Piña
General Secretary

ENGLAND

Founded 1888, membership 633. The Section finally transitioned from an unincorporated association to a charity after over three years of effort, the main difference being that the assets of the organization and the liabilities of the members are now protected. Members studies continued mainly on *The Secret Doctrine*, *The Mahatma Letters*, the *Bhagavadgita*, and Eric McGough's introduction to Theosophy, *The Wisdom and the Way*. Headquarters hosted a day seminar devoted to the life and work of Anna Kingsford. A highlight of the year was the visit by Vicente Hao Chin, Jr, who spoke in London and five Lodges around the country. Two main events were

The Northwestern Federation Conference in June on The Quest for the Holy Grail with Gary Kidgel from Scotland as the main speaker and the Summer School in August titled The Pillars of Wisdom, which were both of high quality. The online Diploma in Theosophy course continued to run for members worldwide and during the last year 41 people got their diploma. This year 108 people are taking the course. An advanced course is being prepared to start in May 2019. A few issues that came up during the year including financial worries have been resolved.

Mrs Jenny Baker
General Secretary

FINLAND

Founded 1907, membership 360. The Annual Convention of the Section was held in Helsinki in April and Janne Vuononvirta became the new General Secretary. There was no Summer School this year. Instead there was the lighter theosophical midsummer festival at the same location, Kreivilä with lectures on The Art of Listening and Human Who Is He? There was also a silent retreat in the end of July. In Estonia a Summer School was arranged in June with the theme Old Wisdom Doctrines of India and Trần-Thi-Kim-Diêu, the president of the European Federation, as the guest of honour. A winter seminar in Tartu in January, a study of *The Secret Doctrine* in Tartu in May and an Autumn study camp in Aegvidu in August were also conducted. A workers meeting with discussions on TS work was arranged at Kreivilä in September with the theme *The Voice of the Silence* a Gate to the Future. The ex-General Secretary attended the General Council meeting and International Convention and two members attended the School of the Wisdom at Adyar. The new General Secretary attended the General Councils planning meeting at ITC Naarden in July. One member from Estonia attended the World

Congress in Singapore. A workshop titled Towards Holistic Wellbeing and a course on *skandhas* were held in Helsinki. Foundation Day, Adyar Day and White Lotus Day were celebrated with lecture programmes. Due to lack of visitors and volunteers the theosophical library in Helsinki is open only once a week on Sundays. The 22 Lodges and one study group had regular study meetings and public lectures. Weekend courses on the Four Noble Truths, Ayurveda, the Path to Enlightenment, astrology, healing colours, *The Voice of the Silence*, and *The Secret Doctrine* were organized. Many videos of lectures are available through internet in Vimeo and Youtube. Newsletters by email reach over 600 subscribers once a month. *Teosofi* magazine is published four times a year. A book, *The Foamy Sea*, was published during the year. Every new member receives with his/her diploma the Presidents letter, three books (H. P. Blavatskys *The Key to Theosophy*, Annie Besants *Ageless Wisdom* and Damodar Mavlankars *Disciple of a Master*), the *Teosofi* magazine and some theosophical study letters.

Mr Janne Vuononvirta
General Secretary

FRANCE

Founded 1899, membership 329 [2016]. The theosophical work continued steadily. Books such as *The Path of Discipleship* by S. S. Varma, *The Secret Doctrine* by H. P. Blavatsky, *Light on the*

Path by M. Collins, *Les Marches d'Or de Helena P. Blavatsky* by D. Audoin and *The Mental Body* by A. E. Powell were studied in monthly meetings. Free courses were offered every fortnight to the public

by Brigitte Taquin and Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu. A special meditation course was conducted and in March, a regular meditation group was formed that meets monthly. In October homage was paid to Danielle Audoin, a long-standing member and former GS of the French Section who passed away in June 2017. A successful fundraising programme for Adyar renovation called Celebration of Light was held in December. In March Open Doors Day was organised for the public with introduction to Theosophy, the TS and its history. There were quarterly shows of videos of J. Krishnamurti's talks. In other parts of France and Congo in Africa, meetings continued at different intervals studying various theosophical books. A workshop on 'The Role of a Human Being

in the Universe' was conducted. In some Lodges meetings have not been regular due to various reasons. The programmes of the Section were published on its website and in its magazine *Le Lotus Bleu* which is published ten times a year. The National Convention took place in June at Paris on the theme 'The Need for Wisdom in the Present Time'. The programme included a public lecture by Halldor Haraldsson, a symposium and discussions and the film *Altruist Revolution* about the effect of compassion from the scientific viewpoint. Two important books are getting ready for publishing: *Collected Articles* by Danielle Audoin and *Science and Occultism* by I. K. Taimni.

Mrs Jeannine (Nano) Leguay
General Secretary

GERMANY

Founded 1902, membership 128. The main event of the year 2018 was a Summer School in July near Kassel. The theme was 'To develop Our Latent Powers' with guest speaker Kurt Leland from the USA who gave presentations on 'The Development of Clairvoyance', and 'Aura and the Subtle Body'. Attendance from the Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland, Austria and USA made it an international meeting. The year was highlighted by the foundation of a new lodge near Hamburg named Brahmapura or Treasure of the Heart. The Southern German Meeting was held in October 2017 studying the translated version of *O Lanoo! The Secret Doctrine Unveiled* from Harvey Tordoff

which is an epic poem of the story of the emergence of the cosmos and the evolution of mankind (*The Stanzas of Dzyan*) in modern language. The Northern German Meeting took place in May 2018 near Lübeck with lectures like 'Who Are the Mahatmas and Where Did They Come from?', Dora Kunz, 'An Essay about the Masters', 'God in You', 'The Divine Spark — Your True Higher Self', 'Count St Germain — A Pioneer of the Aquarian Age'. The work and meetings in the Lodges and the two study groups continued on a regular basis. The monthly public meetings with theosophical talks in Munich continued. A series of introductory talks is being thought of to stimulate

new membership. The General Secretary attended the working meeting at Naarden and the 21st World Congress in Singapore. The *Adyar* magazine continued to be

published thrice a year and can be ordered via the website.

Mrs Manuela Kaulich
General Secretary

GREECE

Founded 1926, membership 156 [2016]. Foundation Day, White Lotus Day and Adyar Day were celebrated in the traditional manner. The Lodges met regularly and worked on the objects of the TS. The free, quarterly magazine *Ilisos* has about 200

subscribers. The three-volume Besant / Leadbeater book, *Talks on the Path of Occultism*, is under translation. The Lodges including those on the island of Crete worked well.

Mr Markos Alafouzou
General Secretary

ICELAND

Founded 1921, membership 262 [2016]. No report.

Mr Kristinn Agust Fridfinnsson
General Secretary

INDIA

Founded 1891, membership 11,144. There were many administrative changes at the Indian Section, starting with closer control of the educational institutions of the Indian Section. This included the ladies hostel, the Vasant Kanya Mahavidyalaya (VKM) and the Annie Besant School (ABS). The quality and capacity of the institutions were enhanced and the administration strengthened and streamlined, including student amenities and employee welfare. The residents accommodation was also similarly revamped. The water supply and sewerage system was upgraded. The legal title issue of the headquarters campus has been addressed with the authorities. The Masonic building is being rebuilt as the earlier building as well as some land had to make way for civic improvements in the city. An internet based system is already functional for financial and membership data manage-

ment of the Section. A new admission form was designed for better capture of new member details. The monthly magazine, the *Indian Theosophist* had a special issue in October 2017 to celebrate the centenary of Annie Besant's election as head of the Indian National Congress which worked to secure India's independence from British rule. For the propagation of Theosophy, a Board of Studies was formed for helping Federations and Lodges to conduct study classes, seminars, workshops, and so on. A new idea for membership enhancement by goal-setting for all Federations will be tried in the coming year. The 126th Convention of the Indian Section, which has 408 Lodges under 16 Federations, was held at Adyar in January 2018 with Tim Boyd as the chief guest. A support convention on the 142nd International Convention's theme 'From Teachings to Insight: The Altruistic Heart' was held in

Varanasi during the same period. The 170th birth anniversary of Annie Besant was celebrated with the speaker L. Nagesh talking on 'Dr Annie Besant the Lamplighter of Indian Independence'. The 142nd Foundation Day, White Lotus Day and Adyar Day were also celebrated in the customary manner. On the latter occasion, Atul Bhatnagar spoke on the significance of Adyar for theosophists. A place of unsurpassable natural beauty with myriad sentient beings, wild and domesticated, living in harmony amongst the salubrious environs, Adyar houses a 450-year-old banyan tree, witness to the benevolent actions of Mahatmas, sages and mere mortals. Situated at the confluence of river Adyar, slow, shallow, silent and steady signifying the souls journey, and the Bay of Bengal, the deep sea rhythmically humming the sound of Pranav signifying the absolute consciousness and the divine beat, Adyar is where structures of human thought, wisdom and devotion merge with songs of birds into the 'Voice of the Silence'. What used to be Huddleston Gardens houses and nourishes the international Headquarters of the Theosophical Society now, living, throbbing, caring and loving, the embodiment of primordial splendour and energy. Innumerable humans have experienced this and found solace in its folds. The visitors and residents alike feel connected to silence and invigorating energy. They are a part of It and It of them; all is in all (*sarvam sarvaatmakam*). A keenly observant, learning mind, sees the reality, gets connected to that eternal flow of immense, peaceful, creative energy. Adyar resides in us always.

The 95th South India Theosophical Conference at Adyar during March-April 2018 with the theme 'The Illumination Must Come from Within' had 118 delegates. The North India Study Camp was held at Varanasi with 104 delegates in October 2017 on 'The Process of Unfoldment: An Education of the Soul' directed by Tim Boyd who talked on the way to free oneself from identity crisis the via negative and the via positive. A public lecture on 'The Importance of the Centre' by Tim Boyd was held in the evening of the first day. Also many study camps were held at Bhowali the Himalayan centre on topics such as 'Glimpses into the Secret Doctrine', 'HPB's *The Key to Theosophy*', 'You Are the Light to Yourself', 'Self-awareness the Process', 'I. K. Taimni's *Self Culture in the Light of Ancient Wisdom*', and so on, including a national youth study camp. About 14 study classes were also conducted during the period. The General Secretary, Pradeep Gohil, attended the 142nd International Convention at Adyar, General Council Meetings at Naarden in July 2018, the World Congress of TS in Singapore in August, and the Executive Committee Meeting of the TS at Adyar in September, in addition to countless conferences within India. National Lecturers Chandrakant Shinde, U. S. Pandey, Sheo Kumar Pandey, Shikhar Agnihotri, Bipul Sarmah, Sonal Murali, Varsha Patel, R. V. Vastrad, Ashok Lokhande, N. C. Krishna, S. Harihara Raghavan, Narsinh Thakaria, B. D. Tendulkar and L. Nagesh gave talks, workshops, study camps, on topics as diverse as theosophical principles, universal brotherhood, unity of religions,

self-awareness and self-knowledge, enlightenment, Stephen Hawking's philosophy, importance of prayer, discrimination between good and evil, human happiness, Chinese philosophy, self-abnegation, spirituality in daily life, holistic health, the nature of memory, love and Theosophy, self-culture, the heart doctrine, power of thought, human regeneration, right living, ancient wisdom, Truth, looking within, death and rebirth, right citizenship, dis-

cipline of a disciple, study in consciousness, inner change, stress-free life, and so on. The assets of the TS all over the country are centrally monitored and unused assets have been disposed off or upgraded for proper utilization. A number of prominent and dedicated theosophists who endeavoured to enlighten their fellow beings passed away during the year.

Mr Pradeep H. Gohil
General Secretary

INDONESIA

Founded 1912, membership 194 [2016]. No report.

Mr Widyatmoko
General Secretary

ITALY

Founded 1902, membership 877. The 25 Groups and 19 Centres had both members-only meetings as well as public conferences. For this purpose, the Italian TS uses open-to-public seats and libraries owned by it in some cities, sites provided by public or private institutions in other cities, and private houses or spaces especially rented for the occasion in all other locations. The Section website, <teosofica.org>, is constantly updated and attracts many visitors over 4,000 monthly surfers. It links to a digital collection of theosophical reviews published in Italy right from 1898. The monthly magazine *Rivista Italiana di Teosofia* has over 1,000 subscriptions. A monthly newsletter is emailed to over 4,500 interested people. Facebook pages with regular updates are also maintained. The official publishing house, Edizioni Teosofiche Italiane <eti-edizioni.it>, publishes Italian translations

and English books in arrangement with the Theosophical Publishing House of Adyar. A seminar, 'Theosophy: Tradition and Revolution', was organized in March 2018. The 104th National Congress took place in Cattolica, during May June 2018, on 'From Knowledge to Service: the Challenges of the Theosophical Society'. In November 2017 Rome hosted the third edition of the cycle of study seminars for theosophical workers. Other relevant events were a public seminar at Este on *The Voice of the Silence* as a sequel to an earlier lecture, Golden Lessons lectures in Novaro, and so on. There is a Youtube channel with videos and lectures. The Adyar Renovation Project was supported. Some members participated in the international Convention at Adyar and the World Congress in Singapore in August.

Mr Antonio Girardi
General Secretary

MEXICO

Founded 1919, membership 145. There are 12 Lodges and 5 study centres and almost all were visited by the General Secretary. A centre of studies was formed for young people. A School of the Wisdom was held in October 2017 at the National Headquarters with the theme "The Three Jewels in One" by Mahendra Singhal.

Foundation Day, Adyar Day and White Lotus Day were celebrated. There were conferences on meditation, mysticism of sun stone, hierarchies of the universe, and so on. The website of the National Headquarters in Mexico is <sociedadteosofica.mx>.

Mr Enrique Sanchez Arrieta
General Secretary

THE NETHERLANDS

Founded 1897, membership 336. There are 10 Lodges and 8 Centres under the Section. Some of the books studied were D. Audoin's *An Approach to Theosophy*; G. Barborka's *The Divine Plan*, A. T. Barker's *The Mahatma Letters*, H. P. Blavatsky's *Meditation Diagram*, *The Secret Doctrine*, J. Krishnamurti's *Last Bombay Talks*, 1985, I. K. Taimni's *Man, God and Universe*, *Self-Culture*, G. Hodson's *Occult Powers in Nature and Man*, R. Mehta's *The Creative Silence*, and so on. The General Members Meeting was in June and the National Board met six times. The Section is closely associated with the International Theosophical Centre in Naarden. In October, Pablo Sender conducted a silent retreat on 'Seeking the True Self' for meditation and

self-knowledge. 'Man, His Consciousness and Inner Transformation' was the theme of the Krishnamurti study days in November and May. In June, The Oliveiras conducted a seminar titled 'The Quest for Wisdom: Insights from N. Sri Ram', and a day with Vicente Hao Chin, Jr, called 'Education: From School Child to World Citizen'. The quarterly magazine, *Theosophia*, was also published on the Internet <theosofie.nl>. The Agenda in the magazine furnishes the summary of activities in all Lodges and Centres in the Netherlands, so that readers can participate in them as per their convenience. Also, a monthly newsletter is mailed to over 800 subscribers.

Mr Wim Leys
General Secretary

NEW ZEALAND

Founded 1896, membership 576. The National Convention was held this year in January with speakers Tim Boyd and Dorothy Bell from Australia on the theme "Seeing through the Illusion A Journey of the Heart" with around 80 members in attendance. Two Schools of Theosophy

were held during the year: in October 2017, with 23 participants, on 'The Spiritual Path in Daily Life: Exploring the Mahatma Letters' and in April 2018 by Elena Dovalsantos from the USA on the theme 'Our Origins and Destiny' based on *The Secret Doctrine* attended by 22

participants. An annual highlight is the Immersion Weekend where the focus is on a deeper awareness of theosophy, and this year the focus was on Theosophy Practical Spirituality. The Section sent 3 or 4 speakers to each Branch during the year including Dianne Kynaston from Australia, and offered grants and scholarships to some members to attend some of

the events. Video recordings of the Convention are made available through the website. The magazine *TheoSophia* continues to be popular around the world. A new Branch building was inaugurated in April with a seminar attended by members from around the country.

Mr John Vorstermans
General Secretary

THE PHILIPPINES

Founded 1933, membership 239 [2016]. An interesting thing about TS work in the Philippines is that for the past two years there is a high proportion of people interested in Theosophy below the age of 35. There is also the increased usage of social media. The Philippines being an archipelago, the internet has proven to be a valuable tool. There are Facebook Messenger chat groups including a vibrant youth forum called Theosofriends which is a good omen for the future of TS work. There is even an elected youth representative to the Board. A scholarship to the School of the Wisdom for youth leaders is being planned to deepen their understanding of Theosophy. The Hao Chin family donated a large piece of land full of trees in metropolitan Manila for development into a theosophical retreat

center. A young architect and the youth group have taken the initiative for this project the future home of Theosophy in Manila. In addition to various public talks, lectures and seminars in various locations across the world, Vicente Hao Chin, Jr, attended the General Council Meeting, including a strategic planning meeting, during the international Convention, and conducted a School of the Wisdom session on 'Self-Transformation and Spirituality' in January at Adyar, India. He also did a lecture tour by invitation in England, Wales and Scotland during April May, and lectured on TS Work in the 21st Century and answered questions at the TS World Congress in August in Singapore.

Dr Roselmo Doval-Santos
General Secretary

PORTUGAL

Founded 1921, membership 118. The Section has new premises to receive members and visitors. Every fortnight there are well-attended public sessions. The calendar of activities is sent to people who contact via the website inviting them

to those activities. Six members attended the Iberian Days in Madrid, Spain, in April during Easter. The Section hosted the Executive and Council meetings of the TS European Federation in September, attended by its Chairman and many

General Secretaries of the European Sections. The Lodges as well as the Study Groups work with a lot of enthusiasm and dynamism, attracting new sympathizers.

A new Study Group, called 'Hermes', has been formed in Lisbon.

Mrs Ana Maria Coelho de Sousa
General Secretary

SPAIN

Founded 1921, membership 318 [2016]. Activities in all Lodges included regular study meetings with members and non-members, and also public lectures open to everyone. Basic introductory courses to theosophical teachings were highly recommended in every Lodge and Study Group. A wide variety of subjects were undertaken during the study sessions, like *The Secret Doctrine* and *The Mahatma Letters*, as well as basic theosophical concepts explained in *The Key to Theosophy*. Other activities included meditation retreats and seminars on symbolism or sacred geometry. In December

there was the annual Silent Retreat on 'The Spiritual Instructions According to the *Bhagavadgita*' with 50 participants. The fortieth uninterrupted edition of the Iberian Days organized every year in turn by the Portuguese and Spanish Sections was held during March-April attended by 40 people from both Portugal and Spain. The theme was 'Living with Intelligence'. A Summer School was held in August by Pablo Sender on *The Yoga-Sutras Of Patanjali* with more than 100 participants and many more via the Internet.

Mrs Angels Torra-Buron
General Secretary

SWEDEN

Founded 1895, membership 147. The magazine, *Tidlös Visdom* (Timeless Wisdom), was published 4 times during the year. The Lodges and study groups had lectures and workshops on various theosophical themes such as 'Sincerity', 'A Way to Know Yourself', 'Non-Duality', 'The Secret Doctrine', 'Theosophy', 'An Introductory Study Course', 'Meditation', and so on. Mini-schools were arranged at the headquarters in Stockholm, one in the autumn and one in the spring, on the topics, 'Self-Transformation according to

Vic Hao Chin Jr', and 'Theosophy in the Beginning, Now and in the Future'. Each had around 20 participants. Summer school was held on the theme: "The Path of Life" with 23 participants. One member attended the theosophical meeting at Naarden. Six members took part in the World Congress in Singapore during August. The bookshop in Stockholm was open two days a week. The website of the Section is at <teosofiskasamfundet.se>.

Mrs Ing-Britt Wiklund
General Secretary

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Founded 1886, membership 3320 [2017]. This was a busy year for the Section.

There was a change in the national board of directors with Jo Schneider leaving and

Daya Kujansuu joining it. The focus has been on disseminating the Ageless Wisdom in new ways. In addition to the usual methods through lectures, libraries and bookstores, the online outreach is expanding rapidly. The website <theosophy.wiki> has approximately 25,000 visitors a month. Furthermore, the videos on YouTube have garnered well over a million views, making the theosophical teachings more easily accessible to online searchers. Two new study centers were certified and new provisional study groups were started. Forty-six presentations were given to local groups. The program to help prisoners discover Theosophy continued through books and courses done by over twenty volunteers, with a profound impact upon the lives of many inmates. The Henry S. Olcott Memorial Library continued to expand the access and visibility of its collection. A collaborative effort through the local library system and joining a consortium of almost a hundred libraries was able to provide patrons with a fresh range of topics and raised interest in the TS and its resources. All American Section-produced journals published from 1894 through 2016 such as *The Mercury*, *The Theosophic Messenger*, *The American Theosophist*, *The Messenger* and *Quest* were digitized and are available online in full text. By using a single search term, students and researchers worldwide can now discover articles from these journals. Digitization of films, slides, and historic documents continued to be a major activity in the Archives department which

fielded a lot of requests about a range of topics. The coordinated effort of editors from around the world to expand the <Theosophy.Wiki> online encyclopedia has been attracting many new viewers. The study, meditation, service, and community participation programs by members are webcast and reach a larger national and international audience and attract new people. Many of these are available on YouTube too. Promotions happen through workshops and meditation retreats which are open to all and also online interactive webinar programs. Books in print or e-book formats give voice to the Ancient Wisdom and sales of Quest Books was steady, including through the bookshop which uses Facebook and e-newsletters for promotion. Selected titles were offered at a special discounted price each month. Used books continue to be a strong, top-selling category. Fifty-eight new video titles were produced on such subjects as reincarnation, mindfulness training, native American spirituality, Buddhism, the heart of spiritual consciousness, the Egyptian mysteries, the mysticism of St Teresa of Avila, the chakras, energy healing, near-death-experience (NDE), The Secret Doctrine, and more, mostly made available to the public free of charge on YouTube and on the website under the 'Recent Webcasts' page. Audio books will be sold as 'Audible' titles on <amazon.com>.

Dr Barbara Hebert
General Secretary

REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

AMERICA, CENTRAL

Founded 1929, membership 14 [2016]. No report.

Ligia Josefina Gutierrez Simpson
Organizing Secretary

AUSTRIA

Founded 1891, membership 58. There are three Lodges which offer weekly lectures throughout the year. Study subjects are based on classical theosophical teachings and related subjects. Lectures are regularly placed on the TS Austria website. In October some of the members attended the annual gathering of the European School of Theosophy in Austria. The

theme was 'The Mahatma Letters, HPB's Teachings and the Path'. In July and August some members attended the summer school of the German TS. In March, the annual meeting of the Austrian Association was held at the Linz Lodge to elect the executive committee.

Mr Albert Schichl
Organizing Secretary

CANADA

Founded 1924, membership 89 [2017]. As a whole there was an increase in membership. The National Convention was held in August with the theme, 'Those Who Came Before Us'. David Sztain replaced Donna Erickson as the Treasurer, and Reid Pollock became the Editor of the magazine, *The Light Bearer*. Members from three independent lodges were present and the possibility of their rejoining the TS Adyar was discussed separately. Lodges had regular meetings of study groups discussing G. Barborka's *The Divine Plan*, A. T. Barker's *The Mahatma Letters*, W. Q. Judge's *The Ocean of Theosophy*, Tim Wyatt's *Cycles of Eternity*, the *Bhagavadgita*, John Algeo's *Theosophy*

— An Introductory Study Course, Shirley J. Nicholson's *Ancient Wisdom — Modern Insight, Death, and After* by Annie Besant, Adelaide Gardner's *Introduction to Theosophy*, *The Science of Yoga* by I. K. Taimni, *The Ancient Wisdom* and *The Path of the Disciple* by Annie Besant, HPB's *The Secret Doctrine* (abridged version), *Introductory Studies in Theosophy* by Adelaide Gardner, and I. K. Taimni's *Self-Culture*. Separate meetings are held each month for inquirers, guests, and so on. In August a summer school was conducted with the theme 'Nature's Laws'. A seminar was conducted in November on 'Cycles and the Impermanence of the Form'. In December the

Winter Solstice / Christmas was celebrated and in May, the White Lotus Day. A French language website and a Facebook group were started. English/French

problems still exist but the channels remain open and new ideas are being considered.

Mrs Maryse DeCoste
Organizing Secretary

CHILE

Founded 1920, membership 42. A legal issue which was affecting the work of the Regional Association was decided in its favour, and activities have resumed in the original manner. Though some members had left earlier, there has been an inflow of new members. The slogan for the year was 'The Fraternity in Our Living Together'. New members of the national council were elected in place of those who had resigned. The special days such as White Lotus Day and Foundation Day were commemorated. The Lodges studied

various books like *Theosophy Explained* by P. Pavri. A public lecture on 'How to Harmonize Living Together', and an annual talk on 'Universal Fraternity, Utopia or Hope?' were also held. The Department of Education also held a series of public talks every Monday on the topics of 'Theosophy is Fraternity', 'The Divine Plan', 'Septenary Constitution', 'Karma and Reincarnation', 'TS and Service', and 'Psychical and Spiritual Faculties'.

Mr Víctor Aguayo Acuña
Organizing Secretary

IRELAND

Founded 1910, membership 74 [2016]. The National Convention was held in June and was a milestone after the joining of northern and southern Lodges in 2005 under one umbrella as a Regional Association. Diana Dunningham Chapotin was the Guest Speaker and she talked on 'Theosophy in Action: Transform Ourselves, Transform the Planet' which the attending members found delightful. Membership has grown slightly with 7 new members. The Organising Secretary keeps in touch with members every 2/3 months through a newsletter and study notes. The Lodges had regular

meetings, usually comprised of short meditations, occasional study days and talks by members. Some of the talks were on *The Ancient Wisdom* by Annie Besant, *The Voice of the Silence* by HPB, and the core of the Krishnamurti teachings, along with discussion. Other topics were 'Sacred Geometry and Holy Numbers', 'Our Inner Light and Power', 'The Way to Peace', and 'The Masters and Why They Founded the Theosophical Society'. The website is <theosophyireland.com>.

Ms Marie Harkness
Organizing Secretary

IVORY COAST

Founded 1997, membership not known. No report.

Mr Pierre-Magloire Kouahoh
Organizing Secretary

NORWAY

Founded 1913, membership 19 [2016]. No report.

Mr Andreas Mikael Isberg
Organizing Secretary

SCOTLAND

Founded 1910, membership 129 in [2016]. No report.

Mr Stuart Mackenzie Trotter
Organizing Secretary

SLOVENIA

Founded 1992, membership 54. The theme of the year was 'Love'. All lodges had regular meetings every week. They mostly study classical theosophical books: *At The Feet of The Master* and *Light on The Path*, A. Besant's *The Ancient Wisdom*, I. K. Taimni's *Principles of Theosophical Work* and *Self-Culture, Commentaries on Living*, Series 1 and 2 by J. Krishnamurti, 'Comments on *The Voice of the Silence*' by Clara Codd, and so on. They also studied articles by

various theosophists. Two schools were organized, the winter school in February in Koper on 'Self-Knowledge in the Light of Theosophy', and the summer school in June in Celje on 'Principles of Theosophical Work', both with Irena Primc as the main speaker. All memorial days were celebrated: Annie Besant's Birthday, Foundation Day and White Lotus Day.

Mrs Irena Primc
Organizing Secretary

TOGO

Founded 1997, membership 20. The books, *The Key to Theosophy* and *Light on the Path* were studied in the Lodges during fortnightly meetings. The annual convention took place in September at the Theosophical Center at Danyi with the

theme, 'The Power of Sound: Gayatri — the Daily Religious Practice of the Hindus'. The magazine, *Lotus Bleu*, arrives from France every month.

Mr Kouma Dakey
Organizing Secretary

UKRAINE

Founded 2013, membership 100. A new Branch was created in Kyiv taking the total to seven Branches and three Study Centers where regular meetings are conducted and classical theosophical literature is studied. In November the annual Convention took place in Kyiv

on the theme, "Through Illusions: Appeal to Unity", accompanied by an artistic exhibition, Frame of Eternity, and a performance Theosophist in Search of Truth. White Lotus Day was celebrated everywhere, but especially in Dnipro, where HPB's house stands. The summer

school took place during June-July on the theme "In the Stream of Divine Love" with over 30 participants. In August, 10 members along with other volunteers participated in repair works of the HPB House in Dnipro. The Scientific Group organized "Science and Theosophy, Search of Bridges" in May attended by Jacques Mahnich from France. The first bilingual magazine *Theosophy and Science* was produced which is planned to be published twice a year. The website <theosophy.in.ua> continues its work

with a page for every Branch and Study Center. Youtube has original and translated videos and Facebook presence is also maintained. The electronic magazine *Svitoch* had 6 issues during the year. HPBs *The Key to Theosophy* was published. Members participated at the International Convention in Adyar, the International Theosophical Conference in Berlin, and other countries like England, Hungary, Russia, and so on.

Ms Svitlana Gavrylenko
Organizing Secretary

URUGUAY

Founded 1925, membership 56 [2016]. The Lodges met weekly and studied *The Secret Doctrine*, parts of various books by J. Krishnamurti including *The First and Last Freedom*, *Lucky Man Who Nothing Is* and *The Creative State of Mind*, and Radha Burnier's *You Are the World* and *No Other Path to Go*; articles published in *Sophia*, the theosophical magazine of the Spanish Section; articles from the Internet seeking the convergence between modern science and ancient wisdom,

and so on. The library lends books to members and is open free two days a week to the public. E-magazines from various South American and Spanish sources are also borrowed from the library. Facebook is also used. Some lectures on masonry, alchemy, the man in his totality, the art of stopping to keep going, healthy eating and quality of life, co-creating my universe, and so on.

Mrs Ema Ma. de Souza Leal
Organizing Secretary

WALES

Founded 1922, membership 74 (a small increase). The Lodges and study centre had regular meetings throughout the year. In April Vicente Hao Chin, Jr, from the Philippines visited while on a tour of the UK and talked on 'Exploring Intuition', 'The Mastery of the Higher Self' and 'Awakening Our Higher Selves'. In May, Fiona Odgren visited from Canada and gave talks on 'Timeless Themes in

The Secret Doctrine That Capture the Heart and Their Importance in this Era'. In September Jenny Baker talked on 'The Inspiration of the Soul'. Others from England visited to given talks and seminars including Tim Wyatt, Janet Holt, Susan Bayliss, and Wayne Gatfield on *The Way of the Mystic*.

Mrs Julie Cunningham
Organizing Secretary

PRESIDENTIAL AGENCIES

ASIA, EAST AND SOUTH-EAST

Formed 1990, membership 507. Four countries, Singapore, Malaysia, Japan and Myanmar make up this Agency with a Lodge each. Lodges met regularly every week. In Singapore, a course in Theosophy was conducted for the public, successfully adding new members. Tim Boyd gave a talk, 'The Importance of the Center' in October. Gerard Brennan of the Indo-Pacific Federation gave a talk on 'Living Theosophy' in March. A study class on *Viveka-Chūdāmani* was conducted with 42 participants. The 11th World Congress of the Theosophical Society was held in Singapore in August with 168 delegates from 24 countries on the theme "Consciousness, Contemplation, Commitment: The Future Is Now". The international President, Tim Boyd, gave a public lecture on 'The Intuitive Mind'

to an audience of over 300. In Malaysia, Dianne Kynaston from Sydney held a public workshop on Unity in Diversity in September. In Japan, the meetings are monthly in rented conference rooms. Video recordings of the meetings are accessed by members who could not attend. *Theosophia* is published every other month. *The Idyll of the White Lotus* by Mabel Collins and T. Subba Row's comment on the same were published. The translations of *The Key to Theosophy* and *Occult Chemistry* were published in e-book form. In Myanmar, legal registration is being attempted now. In addition to meetings, conscious force meditation, life force meditation, and peace meditation are done periodically.

Mr Chong Sanne
Presidential Representative

BANGLADESH

Founded 2013, membership 365. B. L. Bhattacharyya visited in September and lectured at Dhaka University on the work of Vidyasagar and Theosophy. Two other meetings were also organized in different places and theosophical books in Bengali were distributed. New members

enrolled were 65. The White Lotus Day and Adyar Day were observed. Local problems exist such as a TS building being occupied by others, and a resolution is being pursued.

Mr B. L. Bhattacharyya
Presidential Representative

COLOMBIA

Founded 1937, membership 52 [2016]. No report.

Mr Antonio Martinez
Presidential Representative

COSTA RICA

Founded 1997, membership 52. There are 5 Lodges and the membership during the year dropped by 7 members. Some of the books studied were *The Secret Doctrine*, *Life After Death* by J. R. Sordo, *The Guide of Bardo* by Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche,

Attention and Diamond Sutta by Ramiro Calle and others, *Light on The Path* by Mabel Collins, and *Sat-Darśanam — Forty Verses on Reality* by Ramana Maharshi.

Ms Maria de los Ángeles Orlich Soto
Presidential Representative

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Founded 1987, membership 42 [2016]. There are 2 Lodges and a study group. The members met regularly every week except for four months during the Christmas season and the summer and studied books such as *The Ocean of Theosophy* by William Q. Judge, *The Seven Jewels of Wisdom*, *Reflecciones Teosóficas* by Aeneid Irraragorri, and HPB's *The Secret Doctrine*. There is regular interaction with the members in Puerto Rico. In May, a free course on 'Basic Theosophy' was conducted

for the public. Also, María Rosa Martínez presented a public lecture on 'Interconnection: the Underlying Reality'. In July, there was a free, public course on "What is Karma?" In April some members participated at a School of Wisdom session in Costa Rica. Hatha-yoga and meditation were held twice a week starting from May. Anniversary of the TS was celebrated in November and White Lotus Day in May.

Mrs Magaly Polanco
Presidential Representative

HUNGARY

Founded 1907, membership 33. There were two General Meetings, in October and in May. There are three lodges of which two were not active due to health issues of the members. But definite action is being taken to revive them. Public lectures were organized every Saturday in five months of the year with 25–35 participants, and the audio recordings were uploaded to the website for the use of people in remote locations. The best lectures are put on YouTube and there are 30 such lectures now. A new lecture series, two in a month, were initiated on

basic laws of existence, the planes of being and man's activity on these planes. Translation of the eighth part of *The Secret Doctrine* is now in the press and *The Key to Theosophy* will be published soon. All translations are sent to Adyar Library. A total of 170 books on Theosophy are available on the website for free download. Two members took part in the World Congress in Singapore. White Lotus Day was commemorated in May.

Mr Janos Szabari
Presidential Representative

PAKISTAN

Founded 1948, membership NA. No report sent.

Mr Bhagwan Bharvani

PERU

Founded 1924, membership 38. The two Lodges held many public talks during the year, on various topics like 'Life After Death', 'Science and Spirituality In Ancient Peru', 'The Mystery of Consciousness: An Occultist Vision', 'Symbology of the *Bhagavadgita*' and 'Spiritual Development', 'Developing Our Transforming Power', 'Laws for Family Improvement', 'Meditation: Path to Spirituality', 'The Passage of Life to Death', 'Mental Forces', and so on. Isaac Jauli from Spain and Enrique Reig from Mexico visited and gave three talks: 'A Way to Your Inside Master', 'Our First Steps on the Spiritual Path' and 'The Loneliness on the Spiritual Path'. Two

nine-hour courses on 'Basis of Esoteric Philosophy' were held in October and August attended by 35 people. An Internet-based free course on Theosophy is available for the public. Members studied *The Etheric Body* by Arthur Powell, *Basis of Theosophy* by C. Jinarajadasa, *Theosophy in the XXI Century* by Carlos Perez Menendez, *The Voice of the Silence*, *Talks on the Path of Occultism* and E. Wood's *Concentration*. A newly built lecture room fully owned by the TS in Peru was inaugurated in June with a talk by Isaac Jauli and Enrique Reig, who were passing by.

Mr Julio Gerardo Pomar Calderón
Vt. Presidential Representative

PUERTO RICO

Founded 1925, membership 40 [2017]. Puerto Rico was greatly affected by Hurricane María in September and went through the most painful tragedy of the last decade. The TS was not able to meet for quite a while. By the end of November, Sunday meetings could be resumed in a rudimentary fashion. In December boxes of surprise gifts, emergency articles, coloring books and crayons, educational toys and games for the little ones started to be given to the shelters accommodating the affected people, in addition to canned food, cleaning detergents, paper goods and so on. Money was

donated to help with the electricity generator fuel and maintenance during the emergency. By February the electricity was more or less regular and the Lodges resumed the usual weekly meetings. International President Boyd visited along with the President of the Inter-American Theosophical Federation Isis Resende, and a few members from the Dominican Republic. In September, Gaspar Torres from Krotona in California, USA visited and gave talks to the members as well as the public.

Mrs Magaly Polanco
Presidential Agent

RUSSIA

Founded 2013, membership 125. There are 8 Branches and a research centre. All Branches had members study meetings regularly. In November there was an International Theosophical Congress in Saint-Petersburg to celebrate the 142nd Anniversary of the Theosophical Society. The theme was “Scientific value, relevance and importance of *The Secret Doctrine*” and over 50 participated. Winter Theosophical Readings were held in January, Theosophy School in February and Sum-

mer Theosophical Readings in August. Annual All-Russian theosophical conference had 50 participants in May. White Lotus Day and Light Bringer Day in August were celebrated. The national website is <ts-russia.org>. The Youtube channel ‘Theosophy in Russia’ has around 20,000 subscribers and over 4 billion views. It is there on Facebook and other social networks also.

Mr Alexey Besputin
Presidential Representative

SRI LANKA

Founded 1926, membership 182 [2015]. Some lectures and meditation programs were held. U. S. Pandey’s visit from India was very important as his lectures were highly appreciated by

members. The building is fairly old and need some repairs to be done with help from Adyar.

Mr M. B. Dassanayake
Presidential Representative

SWITZERLAND

Founded 1910, membership 23 [2016]. The new committee was elected. The activities of the groups and Lodges continued as already established such as weekly Lodge meetings and fortnightly group meetings, Theosophy courses on Exploration and Transformation, and so on. The usual Swiss and European Theosophical Seminar was held in March, in collaboration with the European Federation and the Italian Section on the theme, ‘Theosophy: Tradition and Revolution’ with a good attendance. A new Study Group has been formed in Lugano and members meet every two weeks. French

speaking activities, can be found on the <theosophiesuisse.org> website. Members took part in the National Congress of the Italian Section and the Convention at Adyar. Articles are available online at <teosofia.ch> and on Facebook, and recently on Twitter. An interesting website explains the influence of Theosophy in the history of world art <theosophyart.wordpress.com>. A donation of Euro 10,000 has been given for the new Archives building in Adyar next to the Adyar Library.

Mr Andrea Biasca-Caroni
Presidential Representative

VENEZUELA

Founded 1953, membership 15. Foundation Day, White Lotus Day and the anniversary of the TS in Venezuelain September were celebrated. Members meet regularly every week and have been studying books like *Studies Envelop-*

ing the Theosophical Lodges by Annie Besant and C. W. Leadbeater, *Letters to Aspirants* by Clara Codd, *In His Name* by C. Jinarajadasa, and so on.

Mrs Nelly Nouel

Presidential Representative

LODGES ATTACHED TO ADYAR

LOTUS LODGE (CROATIA)

Membership 20. Lodge meetings took place weekly in Zagreb and Opatija. The study consisted of themes that were taken from books or articles from magazines: *Karma, Dharma and Reincarnation* by Annie Besant, 'Transcending Science —

A New Dawn' by Jacques Mahnich, *At the Feet of the Master* by Alcyone (J. Krishnamurti), *Light on the Path* by M. Collins, and *The Voice of the Silence* by HPB.

Ms Nada Tepés
Lodge President

ARC-EN-CIEL LODGE (FRANCE)

Membership 18. The Lodge held regular meetings once a month. The members studied Annie Besant's book *Thought Power* and discussions were

held on spiritual thoughts in the world today.

Mr Jean Ioza
Lodge President

ANANDA LODGE (FRANCE)

Membership 15. In January 2017, Ananda Lodge re-elected its officers: President: Brigitte Ioza, Secretary: Jean Adjunto, Treasurer: Cecile Giuliani. Regular monthly meetings were held

during the year at its headquarters. The members continued to work with *A Study in Consciousness* by Annie Besant.

Mrs Brigitte Ioza
Lodge President

COVENANT LODGE (ISRAEL)

Membership 67. The Lodge held weekly study sessions for members and once a month the meeting was open to the public in general. A monthly study on *The Secret Doctrine* was also organized. Twice a month an open meeting for the public in general was held. In January a weekend seminar was held at the Dead Sea on the theme 'Who Am I? Encountering the Light and Shadow within Us'. In

March a weekend seminar at a kibbutz near Jerusalem on 'Choices in Life — Self Knowledge as a Basis for Beneficial Choices'. In June, a retreat was held in the Jerusalem area by Ms Kim-Dieu on 'Unifying Meditation and Action: A New Way of Living'. Five study groups continue to operate during the year with one or two meetings during the month. Facebook has been used as a tool to

disseminate theosophical material. YouTube channel has more than 40 films, some of them full-length lectures on

various topics related to TS activities.

Mr Abraham Oron
Lodge President

FRATERNIDAD LODGE (PARAGUAY)

Membership 16. The Rama Fraternidad departed from the Argentinian Section on 17th August 2016 becoming a Lodge directly attached to Adyar. The Lodge had Branch meeting every Sunday, in which members read texts chosen at the beginning of the year, as well as short texts

from various authors, such as HPB, I. K. Taimni, Annie Besant, C. W. Leadbeater, Pablo Sender, Carl G. Jung, J. Krishnamurti, Radha Burnier and Tim Boyd, among others.

Mr Antonio Castillo
Lodge President

H. P. BLAVATSKY LODGE (QATAR)

Membership 9. The Lodge met twice a month with study classes on 'Ocean of Theosophy' and group discussion on 'Occultism and Theosophy'.

Mr Dom Escobido
Lodge President

ORLANDO LODGE (USA)

Membership 15. The Lodge held meetings twice a month. The first meeting of each month is called 'Meditation on the One Life' based on N. Sri Ram's text. This opening meditation is followed by reading group commentary and discussion on a selected topic. On the second Sunday of October each year, a special 'Nature Sanctuary Day' is held in the campus of the Lodge. The School of Theosophy, Orlando, holds regular classes in basic

Theosophy and meditation. A website <tso-orlando.org> can be visited online. A quarterly e-newsletter, *Theosophy Today* is published by the Lodge. Theosophy Healing Circle meets on the 4th Friday of each month, it conducts healing meditation for those who have requested healing prayers.

Mr Carl Metzger
Lodge President

**INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORY
AND
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
GENERAL COUNCIL**

INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORY

as of September 2018

Date	Section	General Secretary, etc.	Address	Magazine	Email address
1947	Africa, East and Central	... Mr Narendra M. Shah	... PO Box 14525. 00800, Westlands, Nairobi, Kenya	... <i>The Theosophical Light</i>	narendrashahi999@gmail.com
1909	Africa, South	... Mr Desmond Chapman	... 31 Streatley Ave, cnr.Lothbury Ave, Auckland Park, Johannesburg PO Box 91523	... <i>The South African Theosophist</i>	tsinsa.depgensec@telkomsa.net
1956	Africa, West	... Mr John Osmond Boakye	... PO Box 720, Accra, Ghana	... <i>The West African Theosophist</i>	tswafrica@gmail.com
1929	America, Central *	... Mrs Ligia Gutierrez Simpson	... Reparto Los Arcos no. 43, Entrada Principal 1 Cuadra al Sur, 2 Cuadras Abajo, 1 Cuadra al Sur, Distrito 2, Managua, Nicaragua		ligusimpson@hotmail.com
1920	Argentina	... Mr Esteban Langlois	... Pje. Florencio Balcarce 71, Buenos Aires (1405)	... <i>Teosofia en Argentina</i>	secretaria@sociedadteosofica.org.ar
1990	Asia, East and Southeast †	... Mr Chong Sanne	... 540 Sims Avenue, No. 03-04 Sims Avenue Centre, Singapore 387 603	... <i>Newsletter</i>	sanne@theosophyasia.net
1895	Australia	... Mrs Linda Oliveira	... Level 2, 162 Goulburn St., Surry Hills, NSW 2010	... <i>Theosophy in Australia</i>	tshq@austheos.org.au
1912	Austria *	... Mr Albert Schichl	... Oberbaumgarten 25, 4204 Haibach im Mühlkreis	... <i>Theosofie Adyar</i>	theosophie.austria@aon.at
2013	Bangladesh †	... Mr B. L. Bhattacharya	... B/4-3, Iswarchandra Nibas, 68/1, Bagmari Road, Kolkata 700 054		blbtos_2005@yahoo.com
1911	Belgium	... Mrs Sabine Van Osta	... Place des Gueux 8, B1000 Brussels	... <i>Le Lotus Bleu</i>	info@ts-belgium.be
1965	Bolivia	... Mrs Guillermina Rios de Sandoval	... Pasaje Jauregui No. 2255, La Paz		guilleriassandoval@yahoo.com
1920	Brazil	... Mr Sergio Carvalho de Moraes, Jr	... SGAS Quadra 603, N. 20, CEP 70200-630 Brasilia (DF)	... <i>Sophia</i>	secretaria@sociedadteosofica.org.br
1924	Canada *	... Mrs Maryse DeCoste	... # 12-1475 Deep Cove Rd. North Vancouver, BC	... <i>The Light Bearer</i>	modecoste@hotmail.com
1920	Chile *	... Mr Victor Aguayo	... Casilla 11 Sucursal Paseo Estacion, Estacion Central, Santiago	... <i>Revista Teosofica Chilena</i>	sociedadteosoficachile2010@gmail.com
1937	Colombia †	... Mr Antonio Martinez	... Carrera 6, # 56-40, Bogotá (Chapinero Alto)	... <i>Selección Teosofica</i>	antoniomartinezsgura1@gmail.com
1997	Costa Rica †	... Mrs Ligia Montiel	... Calle 38, Aves. 12-14, S.E. San José		limolo08@gmail.com
2007	Croatia ▲	... Mr Darko Majstorovic	... Siget 11, 10000 Zagreb, Republic of Croatia	... <i>Teozofija</i>	teozofija@teozofija.net
1905	Cuba	... Ms Barbara A. Fariñas Piña	... Apartado de Correos 6365, La Habana 10600		teocuba.sociedad@gmail.com
1987	Dominican Rep. †	... Mrs Magaly Polanco	... Calle Santa Agueda 1652 Les Chalet Col San Juan Puerto Rico Apartado 23 00926		polancomagaly@yahoo.com
1888	England	... Mrs Jenny Baker	... 50 Gloucester Place, London W1U 8EA		president@theosoc.org.uk
1907	Finland	... Mr Janne Vuononvirta	... Teosofinen Seura, Vironkatu 7 C 2, Fin 00170, Helsinki	... <i>Teosofi</i>	Indonesia.teosofi@gmail.com
1899	France	... Mrs Jeannine (Nano) Leguay	... 4 Square Rapp, 75007 Paris	... <i>Le Lotus Bleu</i>	ylisihiteeri@teosofinenseura.fi
1902	Germany	... Mrs Manuela Kaulich	... Hauptstr. 39, 93138 Lappersdorf	... <i>Adyar</i>	editionsadyar@wanadoo.fr
1928	Greece	... Mr Markus Alafouzou	... 25 Voukourestiou St., 106 71-Athens	... <i>Ilisos</i>	theosophie-adyar@gmx.de
1907	Hungary †	... Mr Janos Szabari	... H-1085 Budapest, Horánszky u. 27. fsz. 10	... <i>Teozofia</i>	info@teozofia.hu
1921	Iceland	... Mr Kristinn Ágúst Fridfinnsson	... PO Box 1257 Ingólfsstræti 22, 121 Reykjavík	... <i>Gangleri</i>	iceland.ts@gmail.com
1891	India	... Mr Pradeep H. Gohil	... The Theosophical Society, Varanasi 221 010	... <i>The Indian Theosophist</i>	theosophyvn@gmail.com
1912	Indonesia	... Mr Widyatmoko	... Dsn. Parelegi no. 21, RT 02/ RW 09, Desa Purwodadi, Kecamatan Purwodadi, 67163 Pasuruan, Jawa Timur	... <i>Teosofi</i>	indotheosofi@gmail.com
1919	Ireland *	... Mrs Marie Harkness	... 97 Mountsandel Road, Coleraine, UK BT52 1TA		marieharkness@yahoo.co.uk

1954	Israel ▲	... Mr Abraham Oron	... PO Box 9114, Ramat-Gan, Israel 5219002	... Or	ornet@theosophia.co.il
1902	Italy	... Mr Antonio Girardi	... Viale Quintino Sella, 83/E, 36100 Vicenza	... <i>Rivista Italiana di Teosofia</i>	sti@teosofica.org
1997	Ivory Coast *	... Mr Pierre-Magloire Kouahoh	... Yopougon, 23 Rue Princesse B. P. 3924, Abidjan 23	... <i>Sophia</i>	pm_kouahoh@hotmail.com
1919	Mexico	... Mr Enrique Sanchez	... Ignacio Mariscal 126, Col. Tabacalera Mexicana, Mexico, D.F. 06030		sede@sociedadteosofica.mx info@sociedadteosofica.mx info@theosofie.nl
1897	Netherlands, The	... Mr Wim Leys	... Tolsraat 154, 1074 VM Amsterdam	... <i>Theosophia</i>	np@theosophy.org.nz
1896	New Zealand	... Mr John Vorstermans	... 18, Belvedere Street, Epsom, Auckland 1022	... <i>TheoSophia</i>	andreas.isberg@teosofisksamfunn.no
1913	Norway *	... Mr Andreas Mikael Isberg	... Ulriksborgveien 10, 1533 Moss		TheosophicalSocietyCF@gmail.com
1935	Orlando ▲	... Mr Carl Metzger	... 1606 New York Ave. Orlando, Florida, 32803-1838, USA		
1948	Pakistan †	...	... Jamsheed Memorial Hall, M. A. Jinnah Road, opp. Radio Pakistan, Karachi	... <i>The Karachi Theosophist</i>	bhagwanbharvani@hotmail.com
1925	Paraguay ▲	... Mrs Isabel Torales	... Carandayty 572, 1621, Asunción		ramafaternidadSTparaguay@hotmail.com
1924	Peru †	... Mr Julio Pomar Calderón	... Av Republica de Portugal 152, Breña, Lima 5	... <i>Búsqueda</i>	sede-central@sociedadteosoficaenperu.pe
1933	Philippines, The	... Mr Rosel Doval-Santos	... Corner P. Florentino and Iba Streets, Quezon City, Manila	... <i>The Philippine Theosophist</i>	philtheos@gmail.com
1921	Portugal	... Mrs Ana Maria Coelho de Sousa	... Sociedade Teosófica de Portugal, Rua José Estêvão, 10 B, 1150-202 Lisboa	... <i>Osiris</i>	geral@sociedadeteosoficadeportugal.pt
1925	Puerto Rico †	... Mrs Magaly Polanco	... Apartado 36-1766 Correo General. San Juan, Puerto Rico 00936-1766	... <i>Heraldo Teosófico</i>	polancomagaly@yahoo.com
2012	Qatar ▲	... Mr Lijo Joseph	... Crewing Officer, Teyseer Services Company P.O. Box 2431, Doha		qatarblavatskylodge@yahoo.com
2013	Russia †	... Mr Alexey Besputin	... 159-52, Novomytischinsky prospekt, Mytischy, Moscow region, 141018	... <i>Teosoficheskoe Obozrenie</i> (The Theosophical Review)	pr@ts-russia.org
1910	Scotland *	... Mr Stuart Trotter	... 28 Great King Street, Edinburgh, EH3 6QH	... <i>Circles</i>	albion.trotter@gmail.com
1992	Slovenia *	... Mrs Irena Primc	... Kajuhova UI 9, 3000 Celje	... <i>Teozofska Misel</i>	irenaprimc3@gmail.com
1921	Spain	... Mrs Angels Torra Buron	... Av. Vall d'or, 85-87 08197 - Valldoreix (Spain)	... <i>Sophia</i>	presidencia@sociedadteosofica.es
1926	Sri Lanka †	... Mr M. B. Dassanayake	... 2-C/60, Maththegoda Housing Scheme, Maththegoda	... <i>The Sri Lanka Theosophist</i>	mbdassa@gmail.com
1895	Sweden	... Mrs Ing-Britt Wiklund	... Kalle Posts väg 48, S-702 29 Örebro	... <i>Tidlös Visdom</i>	ing-britt@wiklund-orebro.se
1910	Switzerland †	... Mr Andrea Biasca-Caroni	... Via Collina 19, 6612 Ascona	... <i>The Lotus</i>	ancaroni@me.com
1997	Togo *	... Mr Kouma Dakey	... S.O., A.R.T.T., BP 76, Adeta		
2013	Ukraine *	... Mrs Svitlana Gavrylenko	... Office 3, 7-A Zhylianska St., Kiev 01033	... <i>Svitoch</i>	org@theosophy.in.ua
1886	USA	... Dr Barbara B. Hebert	... PO Box 270, Wheaton, IL 60187-0270	... <i>The Quest</i>	admin@theosophical.org
1925	Uruguay *	... Mrs Ema Ma. de Souza Leal	... Javier Barrios Amorín 1085, Casilla de Correos 1553, Montevideo		st.uruguay@gmail.com
1925	Venezuela †	... Mrs Nelly Nouel	... Romualda a Socarrás, Edif. de Oro Piso 12, Apto. 122 - Caracas		nellynouel5@gmail.com
1922	Wales *	... Mrs Julie Cunningham	... Bryn Adda, Brynsiencyn, Llanfairpwll, Anglesey, LL61 6NX UK		theosophywales@yahoo.co.uk

Date refers to the date of formation

* Regional Association

† Presidential Agency

▲ Lodge attached to Adyar

The Council of the European Federation of National Societies: *Chairman*: Miss Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu, 67 Rue des Pommiers, F-45000 Orleans, France. Email: trankimdieu@msn.comInter-American Theosophical Federation: *President*: Mrs Isis M. B. Resende, SGAS 603 conj. E s/n. Brasília-DF, CEP 70200-630 - Brazil. Email: imbresende@gmail.comIndo-Pacific Theosophical Federation: *President*: Mr Gerard Brennan, 42 Melbourne Street, Concord, 2137, Sydney, Australia. Email: president@ipf-ts.orgPan-African Theosophical Federation: *Chairman*: Mr Tom Davis, 9 Ronean, 38 Princess Avenue, Windsor E 2194, South Africa. Email: thosgdavis@icon.co.za

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

Mr Vicente Hao Chin Jr., No. 143, Maria Clara Street, Talayam, Quezon City, The Philippines (for 2016, 2017 and 2018)

Ms Tran-Thi-Kim-Dieu, No. 4, Square Rapp, 75007 Paris, France (for 2016, 2017 and 2018)

Ms Els Rijneker, Tolstraat 154, 1074 VM, Amsterdam, the Netherlands (for 2017, 2018 and 2019)

Mrs Patrizia Moschin Calvi, Viale Quintino Sella, 83/E, 36100 , Vicenza, Italy (for 2018, 2019 and 2020)

Mr Vinayak Pandya, 24/D Jeevan Parag, 127, Prabhat Colony Road No. 2, Santacruz (East), Mumbai-400 055, India (for 2018, 2019 and 2020)

Mr Marcos de Resende, SGAS Quadra 603, N. 20, CEP 70200-630, Brasilia (DF), Brazil (for 2018, 2019 and 2020)

Prof. C. A. Shinde, The Theosophical Society, Adyar, Chennai 600 020, India (for 2018, 2019 and 2020)

MINUTES

Theosophical Society General Council Meetings
on 30 Dec. 2018 (8 am to 5 pm) and adjourned on
6 Jan. 2019 (9.30 am to 5.30 pm) in the Adyar Library Hall

PRESENT

Mr Tim Boyd	<i>President, proxies from Greece and Cuba</i>
Dr Deepa Padhi	<i>Vice-President</i>
Ms Marja Artamaa	<i>Secretary</i>
Ms Nancy Secrest	<i>Treasurer</i>
Mrs Patrizia Moschin Calvi	<i>Additional Member, proxy from Italy</i>
Mr Vinayak Pandya	<i>Additional Member</i>
Mr Marcos de Resende	<i>Additional Member</i>
Mrs Els Rijneker	<i>Additional Member</i>
Prof. C. A. Shinde	<i>Additional Member</i>
Ms Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu	<i>Additional Member, proxies from Belgium and France</i>
Mr Narendra Shah	<i>General Secretary, Africa E&C, proxy from Africa South</i>
Mr Esteban Langlois	<i>General Secretary, Argentina</i>
Mrs Linda Oliveira	<i>General Secretary, Australia</i>
Mrs Jenny Baker	<i>General Secretary, England</i>
Mrs Janne Vuononvirta	<i>General Secretary, Finland</i>
Mrs Manuela Kaulich	<i>General Secretary, Germany</i>
Mr Pradeep Gohil	<i>General Secretary, India</i>
Mr Widyatomo	<i>General Secretary, Indonesia</i>
Mr Wim Leys	<i>General Secretary, the Netherlands</i>
Mr John Vorstermans	<i>General Secretary, New Zealand</i>
Mrs Angels Torra-Buron	<i>General Secretary, Spain, proxy from Portugal</i>
Dr Barbara Hebert	<i>General Secretary, USA</i>

Present as Observers :

Mrs Isis Resende, *Brazil, President, Inter-American Theosophical Federation*
Ms Krista Umbjarv, *France, Secretary, European Federation*
Mrs Svitlana Gavrylenko, *Presidential Representative, TS in Ukraine*

The President welcomed those present.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2018 at ITC Naarden, the Netherlands, having been circulated, were taken as read and the following changes were made:

1) Page 1, item 2, end of first paragraph: ANEC donations were 16.0 lakhs (not 1.6 lakhs)

2) Page 2, item 5, 'Appendix 2' was added to the end of first paragraph: Angels Torra read in its entirety a response from the Board of the Spanish Section, dated 2 June 2019 (Appendix 2).

3) Page 3, added to the end: Appendix 2: Letter dated 2 June 2019 from the Spanish Section about the Damodar Gardens.

With these corrections, the Minutes were approved and signed.

2. Matters arising out of the Minutes

No.

3. Voting and confirmation of Additional General Council members

The terms of Additional Members of the General Council Ms Trăn-Thi-Kim-Diêu and Mr Vicente Hao Chin, Jr, came to an end on 31 December 2018. The President had nominated the same for re-election under Rule 2 of the Rules and Regulations for the years 2019, 2020, and 2021 with the following voting results:

Ms Trăn-Thi-Kim-Diêu	31 Yes, from 37 eligible to vote, none against.
Mr Vicente Hao Chin, Jr	31 Yes, from 37 eligible to vote, none against.

The President declared Ms Trăn-Thi-Kim-Diêu and Mr Vicente Hao Chin, Jr, elected as Additional Members of the General Council for the years 2019, 2020, and 2021.

4. Report on the Non-English Publications Fund

The Secretary reported that on 30 September 2018 the balance of the NEPF account held by the Theosophical Investment Trust in America was \$90,571.

No grants were given during the financial year.

5. Report on the International Funds

The Secretary reported the status of International Funds as of 30 September 2018:

a. International Funds in Australia

ABC Fund (including Endowment Fund): A\$743,402

Adyar Security Fund: A\$119,166

No funds were used.

b. International ABC Funds in USA

Theosophical Investment Trust: \$1,495,788

Theosophical Society in America: \$30,464

The ABC Funds were created in USA for the international work of the Theosophical Society. The funds are invested for long-term growth.

c. The Renovation Funds are in USA, Australia, the Netherlands, and New Zealand. The balance as of 30 September 2018 of *all* the Renovation Funds was \$164,837.

The renovations concerned are for the Headquarters Building, Blavatsky Bungalow, Raja House, and Leadbeater Chambers.

6. Report by the President on the Headquarters

- On 1 August 2018, the Government of Tamil Nadu issued an Order to affirm the international President's term to be seven years as stated in our International Rules and Regulations. The scanned letter of this exemption was published in the November issue of *The Theosophist*. The President expressed his gratitude to various levels of authorities in Tamil Nadu, who sincerely support and respect the Theosophical Society.

- The renovation of Blavatsky Bungalow has been completed and inauguration takes place on 1 January 2019.

- Water leakage repairs were completed for the Headquarters building, Raja House, River Bungalow and Guest House.

- LBC kitchen has been completely repaired with the kind help of a donation from the New Zealand Section.

- The move of the Archives to the southwest section of the Adyar Library building is scheduled for 2019, for which sufficient donations have been received.

- Renovation of LBC was postponed from January 2019 to a later month in the year to allow the necessary time for managing quotes and raising additional funds.

- Attention has been given to renew the infrastructure of pipelines in the northern part of the campus. A challenge is being faced in the coming year with respect to the well-water levels, as there was no monsoon in 2018.

- Preparations to establish the Adyar Theosophical Academy (ATA) are on the way. The proposed plan is to have it functional by June 2019.

- The Olcott School and Social Welfare Centre have undergone several repairs, and the Boys' Hostel functioned in 2018 with 6 to 8 boys.

- The Besant Memorial Animal Dispensary has been a success story with its director, Mr Shravan Krishnan. They have added a shelter for larger animals as well.

The President recommended that General Secretaries support the sponsoring of young people to attend Youth Conventions.

Fundraising for LBC is required and will be requested by a circular. Renovating one room requires US\$5,000. With such sponsorship, the donor can have a plaque for a room. It is planned for LBC to have 46 rooms.

7. Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2018

The Treasurer presented the Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2018. They were approved, with gratitude for the clear and comprehensive presentation of the accounts.

8. The Budget for the year ending 31 March 2020

The Treasurer presented the Budget in detail. The following subjects were raised:

- Rates of books published by TPH have increased by 15 times (for example, from Rs.10 to 150). One reason has been using Amazon to sell various books. Two suggestions to improve Publishing Houses were given: a) to add articles like t-shirts, etc., to the selling items, as they tend to increase sales as a whole, b) the French Section rented out the TPH property and started selling books through a private company, which has been a successful move.

- Ms Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu remarked that the President's and Vice-President's budget were too low. The President mentioned that in the future there is a need to start seeing that certain positions should not be based on an individual's wealth or retirement status. Some form of compensation will be required for the livelihood of those who work full-time for the TS Headquarters. It was unanimously agreed to have an item in the GC meeting at Naarden in July 2019 concerning administration financial support.

The Budget for the year ending 31 March 2020 was considered and approved with all in favor.

9. Appointment of Auditors for the year ending 31 March 2020

M/s Srihari & Co. were unanimously re-appointed as Auditors for the year ending 31 March 2020 on the same terms as before.

10. Appointment of Executive Committee (EC)

The President presented his suggestions for the Executive Committee members for 2019.

All others received 22 votes in favor, except Mr Harihara Raghavan and Mr A. L. Somayaji received 21 votes in favor and one vote against.

Following were appointed as Executive Committee members for 2019:

Mr Tim Boyd	President (ex-officio)
Dr Deepa Padhi	Vice-President (ex-officio)
Ms Nancy Secrest	Treasurer (ex-officio)
Ms Marja Artamaa	Secretary (ex-officio)
Mrs Jenny Baker	General Council Member
Mr Pradeep Gohil	General Council Member
Prof. C. A. Shinde	General Council Member
Mr Jaikumar Kannan	Member
Mr S. Harihara Raghavan	Member
Mr A. L. Somayaji	Member

11. Renovation Projects

As mentioned in item 6, renovation of Blavatsky Bungalow and repairs at the Headquarters building were completed.

LBC renovation needs more funds and due to various preparations, the work cannot start immediately after January 2019. Thus LBC will not be available for the 2019–20 Convention.

Next Convention

The General Secretary of the Indian Section suggested that the next International Convention could be hosted at Varanasi, if, first, the Indian Section Board, and then the Executive Committee agree. The Board meets on 4 January.

Varanasi, the Headquarters of the Indian Section, can accommodate delegates in the College building, and there are Hotels nearby. Facilities can be arranged in consideration of the cold weather. It would be easier for members from north India to attend.

The Executive Committee will decide about the International Convention venue and dates in January.

Unused lands outside the TS Adyar Campus

The matter of selling the unused lands which are outside the TS campus as shown and discussed in 2015 and 2016, was raised. The GC authorized the President to start pursuing the sale of the three outside lands, to investigate the legal aspect and to bring to the GC meeting agenda in July.

12. Theosophical School at Adyar

The Executive Committee decided to name the new school as Adyar Theosophical Academy (ATA).

Location will be the TPH building. It is being considered whether the management of ATA should be under a Trust or part of the TS, or a Foundation. The intention is to be able to start with four classes in June 2019.

Mr Marcos de Resende suggested developing guidelines (as a brochure or paper) concerning "Principles of Theosophical Education".

13. Damodar Gardens

The President contacted the TVSES in August as discussed in the July meeting, letting them know that their proposal was not acceptable.

The TS hired an international commercial real estate firm to give an evaluation of the lease value of the land. The analysis was specifically focused on the value for educational use. They did a calculation and gave their estimate of value.

Due to the disheartening act of giving for publication the Minutes of July 2018 by or through a GC member to *The Times of India* daily newspaper, details will not be given about the evaluation results, to prevent further harmful publicity. The estimate will be used in the negotiations with candidates.

The President showed a video, which was produced to introduce the Damodar Gardens and the purpose for the land, calling for potential partners throughout India. The video is not for public sharing.

Two offers have come so far. Any interest or contact must be sent to the President or the General Manager. They will manage the quotations.

Adjourned Meeting of 6 January 2019

Those present in the adjourned meeting were the same as on the previous meeting of 30 December 2018, except for:

Mrs Manuela Kaulich, who departed from Adyar during the Convention; and

Mr Vicente Hao Chin, Jr, who attended the 6 January meeting, but not the 30 December one.

Observers were:

Mr Minor Lile, *USA*, attended the 6 January meeting; and

Mr Gerard Brennan, *Australia*, attended the 6 January meeting.

14. Discussion on issues from the Greek Section

Ms Els Rijneker reported on the meeting with members of the Greek Section

concerning the financial problems in the Greek Section.

Patrizia Calvi, Antonio Girardi, Enrico Stagni, and Els Rijnaker took advantage of the European School of Theosophy in October 2018, taking place in Pescia, Italy, to talk with Ifigeneia Kastamonti (Secretary of the TS in Greece) and Erica Georgiades (former Board member). The conversation was frank and open. The latter reported that they agree to request donations for specific projects. They were asked to address their specific plans and requests to the European Sections.

In the meantime, Greece has been given the opportunity to reprint HPB's *The Secret Doctrine* and *The Key to Theosophy* with the grant from the NEPF (Non-English Publications Fund). The income from the sale of these books should be used to cover future publications.

15. Discussion on "Proposed Resolution - Lodges and Branches", prepared by Linda Oliveira and John Vorstermans

The "Freedom and Responsibility of Lodges and Branches" resolution (Appendix 1) is meant for wide publication in national magazines. The background explanation in the resolution paper is for Lodges and Branches for clarification.

The GC accepted the Resolution unanimously.

16. Online communication and GC meetings

The General Secretaries of Portugal, Spain, and Greece had made petitions to arrange internet connections to hold GC meetings online.

It was noted that online meetings require technical conditions to have Skype, webinar, or some other format. The matter of confidentiality and security was raised, not knowing if the long-distance facilities have only GC members present. Also, it was pointed out that two days through online may not keep the same intensity and attention as has been achieved so far. Shorter online meetings would mean less discussion.

In Adyar the technical possibility must be upgraded first, and then only we can think of examining how to do this for shorter communications and move in that direction.

17. Any Other Business

a) Posting *The Theosophist* abroad from India is very costly. The Executive Committee (EC) discussed the possibility of sending *The Theosophist* to countries in bulk form, for them to distribute to subscribers in the country (as is done in India). There are some practicalities that need further examination, such as how to manage online subscribers, following-up payments, and managing address changes. The matter was given back to the EC.

b) Mr Esteban Langlois reported the feedback given in the meeting with the participants of the International Youth Convention, which was held right before the 143rd International Convention. The program had given the opportunity for the participants to speak freely, exchange understandings, and ponder. The time schedule was very tight. There was an overall good feeling during the meetings. The President requested each General Secretary to provide one young participant to be able to attend the Youth Convention, which is likely to take place every year.

18. TS Development Projects

Mr Vicente Hao Chin, Jr, presented the status of the development projects. The comments given at this GC meeting are added in red to Appendix 2 “Development Projects as of Nov 2018”.

19. Discussion on work around the world

General Secretaries were asked to report the main points from their country, of which some salient points are reported herewith:

- India has had goal-setting days to create development actions in each Federation of the Indian Section.
- The Netherlands: Els Rijnker read the message of Arend Heijbroek, Chairman of ITC Naarden, to the GC, which is partly referred to here: ITC Naarden is very happy to have hosted the International General Council meeting last July 2018 and to receive all participants again next July 2019. Arundale House has been demolished. The New Lotus House building will start in early 2019, with the hope to be completed by next July. This building will represent the last phase of the building renovations at the ITC. They are considering the next phase, with a stronger focus on two-year programs about the third Object of the TS: The investigation of unexplained laws of Nature and the powers latent in man, attempting to attract “new life”.
- France: Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu said that due to TOS France having departed from TS France, TS has decided to create a specific line in the TS accounts named ‘Theosophical Social Action’, to be more visible with Section’s own social action. According to some informal report, the members of TOS who also belong to TS are less than 10% of the total membership of TOS. .
- England: from 6 October 2018 the English Section has received the Charitable status, after four years of work for that purpose. The Section continues the yearly Theosophy Diploma course and will start an Advanced Diploma Course in May 2019.
- Brazil: the Brazilian Section has a position to teach theosophy for 12 weeks at the university level.

- Observer Gerard Brennan, President of the Indo-Pacific Federation, said that Sri Lanka needs attention to survive; and that he, with Prof. C. A. Shinde, will visit their meetings and also will meet with some outstanding monks from Buddhist organizations. The Indo-Pacific Conference will take place in the Philippines in the second week of November 2019 with the theme “Let Your Light Shine”.

20. Closing of the meeting

The President appreciated and thanked everyone for the harmonious meeting, which is possible with intelligent and committed people.

Marja Artamaa
International Secretary,
Adyar, Chennai 600 020

